CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
OF THE
WEDNESDAY EVENING CLUB

1777 – 1877.

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THE

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

OF THE

WEDNESDAY EVENING CLUB:

INSTITUTED JUNE 21, 1777.

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T. Jefferson Coolidge

October 31, 1957

CONTENTS.

	Page
Introduction	1
Centennial Celebration	17
Remarks of the Chairman, Mr. Thayer	19
„ „ the Secretary, Dr. Lothrop	20
„ „ Mr. W. W. Greenough	37
„ „ Dr. R. M. Hodges	48
„ „ Mr. George O. Shattuck	63
„ „ Hon. Peleg W. Chandler	69
„ „ Mr. William Amory	88
„ „ Mr. George B. Emerson	107
„ „ Hon. C. F. Adams	111
„ „ Hon. Robert C. Winthrop	114
Appendix	125
List of Members	141

INTRODUCTION.

AT the regular meeting, held at the house of Mr. THAYER, January 31, 1877, the Club having been called to order, and, in accordance with custom, the host made Chairman, the Secretary spoke as follows: —

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN OF THE WEDNESDAY EVENING CLUB:

WE all know that on the first of this month, we entered upon the Centennial year of our Club. It has long been a tradition among us — its authority, I believe, resting upon the late Hon. Judge DAVIS of the United States District Court, who was for so many years the revered and beloved Nestor of our Association — that this Club was instituted in 1778. But we have recently ascertained beyond all doubt, from a source whence so many other important things have been unquestionably ascertained, — the Diary of the late Hon. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, — that this Club was instituted in 1777, and its first meeting held on the 21st of June in that year.

The entry in the Diary of Mr. Adams, which determines this point, is as follows, under date of "June 21, 1809." "Club this evening at Judge DAWES'S in his late father's house, being the same day and place where thirty-two years ago the first meeting of the Club was held. Judge DAWES himself and Dr. ELIOT were the only two members now present who then attended. It was now a full meeting, and Dr. KIRKLAND introduced a gentleman from Albany by the name of BREEZE." This makes it certain that the Club will be one hundred years old on the 21st of June next.

That a social organization so simple as this — a weekly gathering of a few gentlemen at each other's private dwellings — should last a century is rather remarkable. It is to be attributed probably to its representative character, consisting of a limited number of persons from the different professions and departments of life. But whatever the cause of its continuance, our Club is completing its century, and we shall all feel some interest in the due commemoration of that event. In its annals as a body, in any organized action or influence it may have exerted, the Wednesday Evening Club presents little for a very interesting commemoration, because it has not aimed at action or influence outside of itself, and has done nothing but

give a large amount of social pleasure to its members, and no small measure of that intellectual improvement which comes from intercourse with intelligent and cultivated minds. But when we turn from it as a body to the roll of its members, and study their individual characters, position, fame, influence, honor, we find an almost illimitable field opening to us for a Centennial commemoration that may be at once a feast of reason and a flow of soul.

For the first half of the century the Club was limited to sixteen members, then, for ten or fifteen years, there could be twenty or twenty-five members; and only for four or five years have our rules allowed thirty members: and the whole roll from 1777, as at present ascertained, contains only one hundred and seven names; but among these names, while all have been faithful and honored in their day and generation, are many who have been distinguished in public and professional life. On our list of membership, living and dead, we number one President of the United States; two Ambassadors Plenipotentiary from the United States to the Court of St. James; one Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States; one Justice of the United States Court for the District of Massachusetts; one Chief Justice, and two Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of Mas-

sachusetts; two members of the Senate and four members of the House of Representatives of the United States, one of whom was Speaker of the latter assembly; two speakers of the Massachusetts House of Representatives; three Mayors of the City of Boston: so that the Lawyers, from whose roll in the Club my enumeration has been made, have no reason to be ashamed of what is included in their membership.

Among the Physicians, we have the names of three or four of those who stood highest in that profession in this city at the close of the last century, and many who have been widely known and honored in this, several of whom have held and adorned Professorships in the Medical School of Harvard College. This reminds me that we have on our list the names of two Presidents of the University at Cambridge, — one a layman, the other a Clergyman, — and when, after this clergyman, we recall the names of ELIOT, GREENOUGH, PRINCE, FREEMAN, EVERETT, BUCKMINSTER, THACHER, FROTHINGHAM, GREENWOOD, WAINWRIGHT, EPHRAIM PEABODY; and that rare union of modesty and dignity, gentleness and strength, CHARLES MASON; to say nothing of the living: both the Physicians and the Clergy will admit that they have no reason to be ashamed of their list of members.

When we come to the general division of the Club, which includes Merchants, Manufacturers, and Gentlemen of Literature and Leisure, we find names of whom we may all well be proud. They designate those of the past and present generations who have extended the boundaries of our commerce, foreign and domestic; who have enlarged our manufacturing interests and built up the healthy and growing cities connected with them in various parts of New England; who by their munificent contributions have helped largely to diffuse knowledge, to found hospitals for the relief of human suffering, and to advance in every possible way the best interests of society.

Mr. Chairman, I should be sorry to have our Club degenerate into "a mutual admiration society;" but, while avoiding this, I still maintain that we have on our roll of membership the materials from which to construct a very interesting commemoration of our Centennial Anniversary. But this cannot be done without thought, care, and preparation. I therefore move, sir, that a Committee of five be appointed, — consisting of one from each of the professions of Law, Medicine, and Divinity, and two from the General Department of Merchants, Manufacturers, and Gentlemen of Literature and Leisure, — to consider and report, at the first meeting in March, a

programme, arrangements, &c., for the commemoration of the Centennial Anniversary of the Club on the 21st of June next.

This motion of the Secretary was unanimously adopted, and the Chair appointed Messrs. LOTHROP, SHATTUCK, HODGES, SILSBEE, and WINTHROP, to constitute the Committee.

This Committee attended to the duty assigned to it, and at the meeting held at Hon. GEORGE T. BIGELOW'S, on the 7th of March, submitted the following

REPORT.

The Committee appointed to consider and report a programme for the Centennial Anniversary of the Wednesday Evening Club, having attended to that duty, respectfully submit their report.

The precise date of the completed organization and first meeting of the Club is definitely determined by an entry in the diary of the late Hon. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, who must have been one of its early members, and continued that membership up to his departure from the country as Minister to Russia — in August, 1809 — after which he was never a resident citizen of Boston.

That date is the 21st of June, 1777, — its Centennial Anniversary the 21st of next June.

The first question which the Committee considered was the necessity or propriety of adher-

ing strictly to this date in any celebration that might be held. Sentiment, feeling, association, point to adherence. In all such commemorations, it is pleasant to keep to the precise day; and doubtless it would increase our gratification to know and feel that we were gathered together exactly one hundred years from the evening on which those nine gentlemen — three lawyers, three physicians, three clergymen, — met at the old Dawes House in Purchase Street, which some of us distinctly remember, and instituted the Club which has come down to us through the century.

On the other hand, reason, convenience, and therefore propriety, point in this case to some slight anticipation of the precise date. The 21st of June this year comes on Thursday, and if we take *Thursday* to celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of the *Wednesday* Evening Club, we do violence, so far as the day of the week is concerned, to the whole history, usage, and name of the Club.

Again, the 21st of June is far beyond the range of our usual meetings for the season, which for many years have ended early in May, and carries us forward to a time when society is very much broken up in Boston, and almost the entire Club is out of the city at country or sea-side homes; and it would be a difficult matter to bring them

together at any one point, to celebrate our Centennial on that precise day, — especially this year, when the 21st of June does not fall in such close proximity, as it sometimes might, to Commencement at Harvard, — an event which brings many of us to this neighborhood, wherever we may happen to be residing.

Further, the 21st of June, 1777, was probably only the completion of preliminary conferences, consultations, and arrangements, which ended in that definite organization or institution which Mr. Adams notices in his diary. The idea of the Club, its spirit, character, purpose, &c., had been in the minds of these gentlemen, had been suggested by one to the other, and talked about for some weeks probably before that gathering on the 21st of June; and possibly, nay probably, in commemorating the real event — the institution of the Club, — we should come nearer to the time of its actual origin, by antedating our celebration, than if we adhered strictly to the 21st of June.

In view of the considerations here presented, the Committee recommend that the Centennial Celebration of the origin and institution of the Wednesday Evening Club in 1777, be held by the Club on Wednesday, the 16th of May, 1877, which will be the Wednesday immediately succeeding the last of our regular meetings for the season.

The next question which your Committee considered was the mode of the celebration. How shall we commemorate the Centennial of an institution, which, though small and private in itself, is indirectly, at least, connected through its members, the living and the dead, with some of the most prominent events in the history of our country and the social progress of the world during the century it has existed? The idea of a dinner at the Parker House or some one of our hotels, with the selection of one prominent member to furnish the whole or the very chiefest part of the intellectual and literary treat of the occasion, by an oration or address delivered either before or at the dinner, on such varied topics as the general history of the Club and the eminent men on its roll of members might suggest to him, — this idea came up for consideration, but was speedily abandoned.

A dinner of thirty or thirty-five or forty gentlemen is of necessity rather a stiff and formal, not to say, sometimes a very stupid and tiresome affair, affording little liberty or opportunity for any real, free, unconstrained social intercourse, and is therefore entirely incongruous and out of harmony with the habits, customs, and usages of this Club at its ordinary meetings. It was thought and felt that the members of this Club, accustomed to our free and easy and pleasant

Wednesday Evening gatherings, if they found themselves seated at a long table, with a magnificently variegated bill of fare before them, would feel, as a Club, so queer and strange and out of place, that they could not possibly have a good time together: and the whole object of the commemoration — viz., the quickening of sympathy and interest in the Club itself, and the inauguration of influences that would help to send it down through its second century — would be lost.

The Committee soon came to the conclusion that what we needed, what would be most desirable and acceptable, was a mode of celebration which, in regard to ease and freedom and simplicity, should be in harmony with the ordinary gatherings of the Club, and yet one that should make provision for some, and give opportunity for all, such utterances as the occasion might prompt any to make. The Committee propose, therefore, and recommend that the Club be called together at eight o'clock on Wednesday Evening, May 16. If we allow fifteen minutes for the assembling, and proceed to the work of the evening precisely at a quarter-past eight, there will be time for such remarks, speeches, addresses, as any member of the Club may be prepared or disposed to make.

The Committee feel that it would not be well to leave this matter of speeches entirely at hap-

hazard, nor do they desire or propose on the other hand, that it shall be so constrained and pre-arranged that all others shall feel they are cut off from utterances to which their hearts may prompt. They propose, therefore, to speak to three or four gentlemen, each representing one department of the Club, who shall be prepared to say something in regard to his department; offer some thoughts, historical, biographical, philosophical, — either, neither, or all, — as his taste and judgment may dictate. Half an hour shall be given to each of the four departments, with the understanding that, however entertaining, instructive, or eloquent, the person designated to speak for it may be, he is not to occupy the whole of the half-hour, but must so far restrain himself as to leave eight or ten minutes of the half-hour, in which it shall be in order for any other members of that department, or for any members of the Club, to put in a word if the spirit prompts. At the end of every half-hour, and before, if the utterances which any desire to make in reference to it have ceased, a new department shall be summoned to the front, till all have had an opportunity to say something about the century and the Century Club. The Committee believe that this mode of celebrating our Centennial Anniversary would be more lively and entertaining, more in harmony with our

usages than any other, and therefore recommend that this plan be adopted, and that they be authorized to arrange for it accordingly.

The next point that came up for the consideration of the Committee was the place, — Where shall this meeting on the evening of the 16th of May be held?

One name was immediately suggested; and the instincts of the Committee instantly admitted, and the instincts of the Club will instantly admit, that if any member has a claim that the Centennial Meeting shall be held at his house, it is this gentleman. Mr. JOSEPH COOLIDGE joined this Club in 1826, when he was twenty-eight and the Club was forty-nine years old. He has been a member fifty-one years, — more than half the life of the Club. He has always been loyal to it and taken a deep interest in it. From ill-health and a severe domestic bereavement, in which we all sympathize, he has not received the Club this winter, nor been at any of our meetings. It was thought that if circumstances would permit him to receive us, the most appropriate place for the sort of Centennial Celebration we propose was his house. The Secretary was authorized to confer with him, and has done so. Mr. Coolidge entertains the proposition with favor, but the circumstances to which we have referred make him hesitate to enter into any

positive engagement, and he must not, of course, be held to any.

The Committee simply report that, if the plan they propose be adopted, they hope the Centennial Meeting may be held at Mr. Coolidge's; and, if his health permit, it probably will be held there: if not, it will be easy for the Committee to arrange with some other of our older members to receive us, of which due notice will be given.

The guests to be invited was another of the questions that came up before the Committee. Upon this point the Committee recommend that all former members of the Club who left us by resignation, of whom there are eight survivors, — viz., Hon. J. G. Palfrey; Rev. Alexander Vinton, D.D.; Rev. Orville Dewey, D.D.; Rev. G. W. Blagden, D.D.; William H. Gardiner, Esq.; Hon. Josiah Quincy; O. W. Holmes, M.D.; and John Heard, Esq., — be invited to be present at the Centennial Meeting; also the gentlemen from Cambridge, Rev. Dr. Peabody, Hon. Emory Washburn, and the President of the University, whose father, and two of whose predecessors, were members of the Club when residents of Boston; and also that it be at the discretion of the Committee, on conference with the gentleman at whose house the meeting is held, to invite one or two others if they see fit to do so.

At the meeting of the Committee, it was moved, that, on and after the Centennial Celebration, the Club shall be known and called "The Century Club." An amendment was proposed, that the old distinctive title "Wednesday" should be retained, and the Club designated "The Wednesday Evening Century Club."

The Committee took no action on the motion or the amendment further than to agree that both the motion and amendment should be reported to the Club for such action as the Club might determine to take upon it at the proposed Centennial Meeting.

All which is respectfully submitted by the Committee.

S. K. Lothrop.
Robt. C. Winthrop.
Nath. Silsbee.
R. M. Hodges.
Geo. O. Shattuck.

Boston, March 7, 1877.

The foregoing report was accepted, and the Committee authorized to proceed in making arrangements for the Centennial Celebration in accordance with its suggestions; and, at a meeting shortly subsequent, they were invested with full power in the premises. It was early determined, on the part of the Committee, that the Secretary, Dr. Lothrop, and Mr. W. W. Greenough, a grandson of an original clerical member, should be invited to speak for the Clergy; George O. Shattuck, Esq., and Hon. P. W. Chandler,

for the Lawyers; Dr. R. M. Hodges, for the Physicians; and Mr. William Amory, Mr. George B. Emerson, Hon. Charles Francis Adams, and Hon. R. C. Winthrop, for the General Department; and these invitations were accepted. It was found expedient to change the time for the Commemoration from the evening of the 16th to that of the 9th of May; and, when it was ascertained to the regret of all that the health of Mr. Coolidge would not permit him to receive the Club, Mr. Thayer kindly invited us to hold the meeting at his house. The following notice was sent to the members of the Club and the few guests invited: —

1777. 1877.

WEDNESDAY EVENING CLUB.

INSTITUTED 1777.

A Special Meeting of the Wednesday Evening Club, in commemoration of its One Hundredth Anniversary, will be held at the house of Mr. Thayer, 70 Mt. Vernon Street, on Wednesday evening next, May 9th. Brief addresses will be made by one or two gentlemen from each of the departments of the Club; and, that there may be no delay, members and invited guests are requested to assemble punctually at eight o'clock.

S. K. LOTHROP, *Secretary.*

Boston, May 4, 1877.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

IN accordance with the notice issued, the Club and invited guests assembled at 70 Mount Vernon Street at eight o'clock; and at a quarter-past eight were called to order by the Secretary, who said, —

GENTLEMEN AND FRIENDS:

It is a matter of deep regret that we meet to-night under less happy and auspicious circumstances than we expected a few weeks ago. We are constrained to greet this Centennial Commemoration of the Wednesday Evening Club with something of sadness in our hearts. Our oldest associate, as warm, earnest, and faithful a member as the Club ever numbered in its ranks, Mr. JOSEPH COOLIDGE, is not only unable, on account of his health, to receive us at his house, as at one time we hoped, but is prevented, by the same reason, from gracing with his presence and sympathy our gathering on this occasion.

Not far from where we are here assembled, another of our members, our friend Mr. JOSEPH IASIGI, lies very ill, though happily he is much

better to-night, and the prospect of his recovery is far brighter than it was a few days ago. Mr. IASIGI is, I believe, the only gentleman of foreign birth and lineage, certainly the only one of Asiatic race and type, who has ever been a member of this Club, which in its origin, history, and character, has been (if there be any such thing) peculiarly Bostonian. But the high position as a successful merchant, which Mr. IASIGI had gained in this city by his industry, enterprise, and integrity, aided by his courteous manners and kindly dispositions, made it altogether proper that he should be enrolled as a representative man among the merchants of the Club, where his many genial qualities have secured him a warm place in our hearts; and it will be a grief to all of us should we see his face no more among us.

But a darker shadow rests upon our commemoration. Only yesterday, at noon-day, did the intelligence reach us that another of our members, Hon. FRANCIS B. CROWNINSHIELD, had suddenly died that morning at his summer residence, at Marblehead. He had been a member of this Club about forty years, and for more than that period had stood before this community in honor and respect for his ability, the strength and integrity of his character, and the value of his services as a lawyer and a public man, and the fidelity with which he had discharged the vari-

ous important trusts committed to him. Further notice of him, I presume, will be made by some one of those who are to speak to us this evening.

The sad events to which I have alluded would have led to the postponement of this commemoration, had it been possible: but the time was too brief; all our arrangements had been made, and it was felt that our celebration must proceed in accordance with them. We cannot forget these things, nor do we wish to; but we must not let them take complete possession of our minds: we must keep them, for the time being, in the background of our consciousness; and gentlemen, I trust, will give full utterance to the thoughts and feelings they had prepared themselves to express as appropriate to this occasion, though the shadow of death rests upon our little circle.

Is it your pleasure, in accordance with our usual custom, that our host, Mr. THAYER, be requested to act as Chairman of this meeting?

This question being carried by a unanimous affirmative, Mr. THAYER, on taking the Chair, said: —

GENTLEMEN, — I thank you. Regretting Mr. COOLIDGE'S inability to receive us this evening, let me assure you, that it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to my house on an occasion to which we have all looked forward with so much interest. No one can feel more deeply than

I do the sad events to which the Secretary has just alluded. All of them, but especially the sickness of my old friend, Mr. IASIGI, come very near my heart; but I sincerely hope that, following the suggestions of the Secretary, we shall not permit them to prevent our having as pleasant an evening as possible, and that every thing said and done will help to start the Club with fresh life, energy, and spirit, upon its second century. The duties of the Chair will not be onerous, as I have only, under the guidance of the Secretary, to carry out the programme that has been arranged; and, in accordance with that programme, my first duty is to call upon the Secretary, Rev. Dr. LOTHROP, to speak for and in regard to the Clerical Department of the Club.

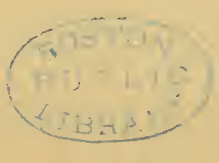
In response to this call, the Secretary said: —

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN, — You remember the story related of the late Chief Justice Parker and Bishop Chevereux, when the latter getting into a carriage took the front seat, and the former remonstrated, insisting that the clergyman should take the back seat, — the Bishop answered, "No, sir, pardon me: the clergy always before the law." For some reason, I know not what, our Club has adhered to this idea; and, in every list of members that has been made and

transmitted from the past, the clergy have always been placed "before the law," and in the front rank of the several departments.

The Committee, entrusted with this evening's arrangements, thought it best to adhere to this established rule, and let the clergy be heard first; and as I am not only the senior in years, but have a membership twenty-one years longer than that of any other clerical member, it was thought proper that the duty which I now attempt to discharge should be assigned to me.

During its century of existence, there have been twenty-seven clerical members of the Club. Much that is interesting gathers around the history and character of the first three clerical members, ELIOT, BRADFORD, and GREENOUGH, and their agency and influence in its formation, but I leave all this to be more fully treated by the gentleman who is to succeed me, — a grandson of one of those original clerical members, — simply remarking that it fell to my lot as a boy, in 1818, to be sent with a note to the house of the Rev. JOHN BRADFORD, at West Roxbury, — to be ushered into his study to deliver it, and wait for an answer; so that I can say this evening that I remember personally one of our original members, one of the nine who instituted our association one hundred years ago.



Of the twenty-seven clerical members of the Club, I have known personally nineteen, though some of these not till several years after they ceased to be members, and I have been associated as a member with twelve, nearly one-half of the clerical list. Of those on the list, the one whom I knew first, I also knew best and loved most, — my uncle, Rev. Dr. KIRKLAND; and of him I may be permitted to say a few words. He was a rare man in his way, and of the names on the clerical list his is not least distinguished or noteworthy. The son of an Indian missionary, descended on both sides of the house, Kirkland and Wheelock, from two or three generations of clergymen, he was born in what was then the western wilderness of New York in 1770. In June of that year, his mother (Jerusha Bingham, a niece of the first President, Wheelock, of Dartmouth College) started with his father to go down to her friends in Connecticut, to meet her expected confinement. The journey, for a hundred miles at least, had to be made on horseback, and as General Herkimer's, at the western end of the German Flats on the Mohawk, was the first house occupied by whites, and the only place where they could be comfortable for the night, the first day's ride had to be from Oneida to that point, a distance of about thirty miles. The effort proved too much for her, and prostrated by fatigue she

and Mr. Kirkland gladly accepted for several weeks the hospitality and kindness of General Herkimer and his family; and there, on the 18th of August, Mrs. Kirkland was delivered of twins. The first-born was named John Thornton, after his father's friend and correspondent, John Thornton, of London; and the other, George Whitfield, after the famous preacher, between whom and both Mr. and Mrs. Kirkland there existed a mutual admiration, and a warm sympathy and respect.

Early in the autumn, as soon as Mrs. Kirkland and the twins could bear the journey, Mr. Kirkland returned to Oneida, where they remained two or three years; but as the troubles of the revolution approached, and residence on the Indian frontier became unsafe, he removed his family first to Windham, Connecticut, and thence to Stockbridge, where, under instructions and help from his friends in England, he purchased a small farm, on which they resided till after the peace of 1783. Here Dr. KIRKLAND passed his boyhood, till he went to Phillips Academy, Andover, and thence to Cambridge in 1785. After graduating in 1789, he spent a year at Andover as assistant teacher in the academy; then returned to Stockbridge, studying with Rev. Dr. West, of that town, for a year or two, till called to Cambridge as tutor, where he completed his professional studies under Dr. Tappan, Hollis Professor of

Divinity. He began to preach in the autumn of 1793, and early in 1794 was invited to become the pastor of the New South or Church Green Society. Here he had an eminently useful and successful ministry. He was faithful as a pastor, guided and helped thereto alike by the genial and devout instincts of his nature.

In this relation, as well as in all others, he knew how to mingle a wise severity and rebuke with the most tender sympathy. A mother lost her first-born, just before its days had made the circuit of a year. She was inconsolable and rebellious, insisting that God had been unjust and unkind to give her the child and take it away so soon. Having endeavored in vain to give her consolation by his sympathy, and to bring her to a more submissive and trustful state, he said: "Well, madam, it is of no use to prolong this conversation; I must go: but before leaving I will ask you one question, and wait for your answer till I call again. God Almighty has seen fit to take away your child, I should like to know what you propose to do about it?" a question which the mother afterwards acknowledged did her more good than any thing he had previously said to her.

He was not an orator, in the ordinary meaning of that word; but he had the eloquence of broad, weighty, wise, and just thought, appropriate and

applicable to the times, expressed in a style as chaste and simple as it was strong and clear; and so he soon gathered into his congregation many of the ablest and best men of that day in the community, and exerted a wide and beneficial influence upon its best interests. In 1810, Hon. Fisher Ames having declined to fill the vacancy in the Presidency of Harvard College, occasioned by the death of Dr. Webber, Dr. KIRKLAND was elected, and, having accepted the trust, was inaugurated in November of that year. His administration of the College for eighteen years, up to the failure of his health and resignation in 1828, was as brilliant and distinguished, as any that had preceded it, or that have followed it, unless it be that of the present head of the University, whose absence, as one of our honored guests this evening, we greatly regret. All the interests of the College prospered under his hands. Its funds were largely increased; the State gave $100,000, — $10,000 a year for ten years; many rich men in Boston, or the vicinity, made large gifts or bequests; the requisites for admission were increased, and the course of studies extended; the Medical School was enlarged; the Law School and the Divinity School were established; and thus the College was really raised, in his day and by his influence, from a simple academic institution to the rank of

a University. Dr. KIRKLAND lived twelve years after the attack of paralysis which led to his resignation, and though never entirely recovering from its effects, physical or mental, was well enough to make a long sojourn in Europe and enjoy travelling in Egypt, the Holy Land, and an overland journey on horseback from Constantinople to Belgrade. He died in this city in April, 1840, a few months before reaching his seventieth birthday. All my seniors and contemporaries in this Club, who remember him in the days of his prime, will unite with me in recalling his image with mingled reverence, love, and admiration.

In close proximity to Dr. KIRKLAND, on our list of clerical members, stands the name of HORACE HOLLY. In the autumn of 1818, as the President-elect of Transylvania University, already started on his journey to Kentucky, he called at the President's house at Cambridge, to take leave of Dr. KIRKLAND. I saw him at that time: my vision of him was brief, and I was but a boy; but the impression he made upon me by his personal appearance, voice, manners, and fascination, is vivid to this day. Dr. HOLLY'S career was more varied and eventful, with more of public fame and more of personal disappointment in it, probably, than that of any of the clerical members of the Club.

He was born in Salisbury, Conn., on the 13th of February, 1781, and graduated at Yale College in 1803. He passed the ensuing winter in a law-office, in the city of New York, intending to prepare for the bar; but, relinquishing that purpose, he returned to New Haven, studied for the ministry, and was settled at Fairfield in the autumn of 1805. Passing three quiet, useful, and happy years at Fairfield, he resigned in September, 1808, and came to Massachusetts for such fortunes as might open to him. After preaching at Marblehead, and declining an invitation to settle there, he came to Boston, his fame as a pulpit orator having preceded him and awakened very decided expectations. He preached first at the Old South, and at the Thursday Lecture, and then for a few weeks as a candidate at the Hollis Street Church, of whose vacant pulpit he was invited, with great unanimity, to take permanent charge.

The invitation was accepted, and the services of installation were held on the 8th of March, 1809. If we take the words of an admiring friend, Dr. HOLLY "was now at maturity, and perhaps no man ever presented a finer combination of rare qualities. His mind was active, vigorous, and glowing; his person manly, graceful, and imposing; and he had a power of eloquence which few possess and none surpass."

We are not surprised, therefore, that crowds flocked to hear him; that the Hollis Street Society increased in numbers and strength; that a new, large, commodious brick church (the present structure) was soon erected; and that his ministry was a period of temporal and spiritual prosperity to that people. He had been educated in Dr. Dwight's Theology, was one of his favorite pupils, and his successor in the parish at Greenfield Hill, Fairfield; but his mind was active and progressive, and his free and independent studies soon carried him away from the Gamaliel, at whose feet he had been brought up, and ere long he came to be counted as a liberal of the liberals in the Boston pulpits of that time; but he was, and continued to the end, a faithful, earnest, and devout Christian man, as every thing authentic published by him, or about him, abundantly proves.

With good scholarship and thorough intellectual training, a noble presence, magnificent voice, a speaking eye, and a large magnetic force, Dr. Holly had all the requisites for an orator, and for the results which finished and cultured oratory can produce. These made him ambitious undoubtedly, but it was the ambition of usefulness, of large labors, and sacrifices in the service of education and religion. After his settlement at Hollis Street, his reputation and influence were constantly increasing, and soon extended far be-

yond the limits of Boston. In 1815, he was invited to the Presidency of Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky, and declined: but his fame and power increased; three years later the invitation was renewed; and, in the spring of 1818, he made a visit of inspection and observation to Lexington and the neighborhood, and was so favorably impressed, that he accepted the appointment, sent in his resignation, which was received with great regret by the Hollis Street Society, and removed to Kentucky in the early autumn of that year. This was the mistake of his life, and he probably felt it to be so before his life closed: yet he evidently made the decision from pure and high motives; and these are so clearly expressed in one of his letters to his wife, who was not happy in the prospect of leaving Boston, that the following passages from it ought fairly to be quoted in this brief sketch, in justice to Dr. HOLLY'S memory: —

"My life," he says, "has not been half so useful in Boston, as I am persuaded it will be in Lexington. For the sole purpose of doing good, I had rather be at the head of this institution than at the head of any Eastern College. The field is wider; the harvest more abundant; and the grain of a more excellent quality. I may become what you call a martyr, but it is not my intention to be one. I shall make a sacrifice in many things, but

I shall do my duty; and, if I meet with success, it will be glorious. I am not about to bury myself, nor take my talents, humble as they are, from an active and conspicuous sphere. This whole western country is to feed my seminary, which will send out lawyers, physicians, clergymen, statesmen, poets, orators, and *savans*, who will make the nation feel them. It is a great opening, and I should be pusillanimous to shrink from it, on account of the sacrifice I shall make in the refinements of society, and the breaking up of connections, however dear to my heart." . . . It is "an enterprise adapted to my character and my ambition. There is enough of hazard, of effort, of difficulty, and of height, to excite and occupy all the powers of my mind. I shall act upon more minds than any man on this side of the mountains, and shall reach more sympathies. My personal objects will be the objects of the community. . . . I am not deceived by the gala dress of Lexington, as you suggest. . . . In regard to Boston, you want to refresh my mind, but you need not. I know already that no place in our country is better, or handsomer, or wiser, or happier. No scenery is so beautiful. There is an endless variety in the vicinity of Boston, and nothing equals it in the Union. These are not the considerations which move me: my imagination is not absorbent of my judgment; I am

cool, but clear and decided about my course. I shall accept the appointment."

And so, animated by these high motives and sanguine hopes, Dr. HOLLY removed to Lexington, and, for eight or nine years, did a great work, as the President of Transylvania University. He had at first large successes, but always constant discouragements, originating in political indifference or religious prejudice and bigotry. The State would not give the needed encouragement, aid and protection; and the religious denominations would not exercise the forbearance and magnanimity, or offer the sympathy and co-operation, without which the University could not be a success. At length, wearied and exhausted with what he regarded as ill-requited labors, he resigned in the winter of 1827, and amid the deep regrets of the students and a large portion of the trustees, his friends, proceeded to New Orleans, where he soon began to lay the foundations of another collegiate institution, below the city, near the battle-ground, that was to have been the glory of Louisiana. Much enthusiasm was felt towards him personally by many influential people in New Orleans. Considerable sums of money were subscribed, other sums loaned, and had Dr. HOLLY lived, the enterprise might have been a success. But he worked too hard, and too late

into the summer. He became ill. Friends and physicians advised rest and quiet where he was; but no: he felt that "one breath of air from the northern shore, though borne upon the eastern gale, were worth all the boasted luxuries of the ever-smiling violet-scented south," and, therefore, sailed as speedily as possible in the packet-ship "Louisiana." But it was too late: fever fastened upon him and upon others in the ship, and in a few days he died — on the 31st of July — and was buried at sea. I do not know whether any monument has ever been erected to his memory: if not, then that lone spot in the ocean is his unmarked grave, and "the everlasting Tortugas" in sight of it his only monument.

Dr. HOLLY was, probably, the first instance in which the old unwritten rule, making graduation at Harvard College a requisite of admission to this Club, was disregarded. He was, probably, admitted a member, the year after his installation at Hollis Street, to fill the vacancy made by Dr. KIRKLAND'S resignation and removal to Cambridge in 1810.

Among the earlier clerical members of the Club, — those, I mean, who belonged to it in the first third of its century, — there is on the list the name of but one other whom I knew personally, JAMES FREEMAN, a man whose quiet spirit, uneventful life, and unobtrusive but extensive

usefulness, were in striking contrast with Dr. HOLLY'S disturbed and exciting career. Born in Charlestown in 1759; graduating at Harvard in 1777; and after being a prisoner in Quebec for two years, 1780–82, and returning to Boston, and having already studied for the ministry, Dr. FREEMAN was invited to become Reader at King's Chapel in September, 1782; and here in this city, and for more than fifty years connected with this church, he passed his life, honored with the respect, confidence, and affection of all who knew him.

The King's Chapel was an Episcopal Church, using the Church of England service. In the progress of his theological studies, Mr. FREEMAN found that certain portions of this service were not in harmony with his religious convictions, and that he could no longer conscientiously administer it. He proposed to resign, but many of his friends who were getting very much attached to him, said: "Why not state your objections, and the alterations in the liturgy you would like, and submit them, and let the parish decide whether they will adopt or reject them." This course was taken, and the alterations were approved and adopted by a majority of three-fourths of the proprietors, who also agreed to pay to its former owner sixteen pounds for any pew that might be vacated. This change

having been made, and Mr. FREEMAN being, at present, only a Reader, difficulties of course arose in the way of his being ordained and inducted into office as the rector or pastor of the church. Mr. FREEMAN made personal applications to Bishop Seabury, of Connecticut, and Bishop Provost, of New York; but, of course, after understanding his position, and the alterations he had made in the liturgy, they could not consistently or conscientiously ordain him; so he returned to Boston, and after Evening Prayer, on the 18th of November, 1787, he was by a simple service ordained, or inducted into office by the wardens, the people, by a rising vote, accepting and declaring him to be their "Rector, Minister, Priest, Pastor, and Ruling Elder."

Dr. FREEMAN was a quiet worker, taking a deep interest in every thing appertaining to the welfare of this community, rendering large services on the school committee, in the Massachusetts Historical Society, in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and in other important literary and religious trusts, in an unostentatious, unpretending manner, yet with a wisdom, a devotedness, a large tolerance, a broad charity, that gained for him while living, and have retained for him since death, a name and a memory never mentioned but with profound reverence and respect.

From the time of Dr. FROTHINGHAM, who became a member in 1816, and resigned in 1836, — a few months after I became a member myself, — I have known intimately every clerical member of the Club; and with the exception of two, whose names are on the list, — Dr. GREENWOOD, who became a member in 1822, and resigned in 1835; and Dr. PALFREY, who became a member in 1819, and resigned in 1822, — I have been personally associated with them in the Club. The date of Dr. PALFREY'S membership is seven years earlier than that of any person now living. It is fifty-five years since he resigned, and his inability to be present with us this evening is deeply regretted; because the rare pleasure derived from his presence and sympathy would be enhanced by the fact that, were he with us to-night, our Centennial Commemoration would be graced by one whose membership, nearly sixty years ago, associated him with one of the original members and founders of the Club, — Dr. THOMAS WELSH.

Mr. Chairman, I should like to give some of my impressions and personal reminiscences of all the deceased clergy who have been members in my time, and say something of GREENWOOD, with his apostolic simplicity of spirit and character; of FROTHINGHAM, with his large learning and culture, and the sweet spirit of resignation, with

which he bore the infirmity of blindness in his closing years; of WAINWRIGHT, the accomplished scholar, the courteous gentleman, the devoted bishop, whose residence and membership, while he was rector of Trinity Church, are remembered with so much pleasure; of PARKMAN, whose wit and wisdom so often gave a zest to our meetings; of ALEXANDER YOUNG, the accurate historian and sturdy defender of the Pilgrims and Puritans; and, especially, of the last two deceased clerical members — EPHRAIM PEABODY and CHARLES MASON — the one a Churchman, the other a Congregationalist, who bore a striking resemblance to each other in the strength and tenderness, the modesty and firmness, the gentleness and force, that mingled in their characters, made their lives eminently useful, and make their memories sweet and pleasant to all of us, who were associated with them in this Club.

But I have occupied more than my share of time, and will only say in conclusion, Mr. Chairman, that I think we may all look with satisfaction upon the clerical list of the Club; and, judging from my own experience, I think I may assure the laymen that this Club has been a great satisfaction and benefit to all the clergymen who have been associated with them in it, and will ever continue to be. Those nine gentlemen, who, on the

21st of June, 1777, associated themselves together in the Wednesday Evening Club, had no idea, probably, that they were forming a little social institution that would reach and survive its century. But we, their successors and present members of the Club, as we look at its past, its history, character, and present position, may well cherish the expectation that it will survive to meet and celebrate the conclusion of a *second* century. Let us do our part, while members of it, to aid in the fulfilment of this expectation, and let all the influences of this evening tend to increase our interest and our loyalty to the Club.

Of the founders of the Club, especially its first clerical members, we now hope to hear something from our associate Mr. W. W. GREENOUGH, the grandson of one of them; and I would suggest to the Chairman to call upon him.

Mr. GREENOUGH being called upon by the Chairman, addressed the Club as follows:

I have been requested by the Committee to give some account of the earliest clerical members of the Club. The pursuit of this object has led to some results which may interest the present members of the organization.

Founded in 1777, there is no record extant of its simple beginning, except that it comprised nine members; three each from the clerical,

legal, and medical professions. There is no statement of the motives which governed them, or the objects which they had in view. The Club does not appear to have begun with any constitution or by-laws, nor did it declare its principles in any set of resolutions. In 1778, it was referred to by Rev. Dr. ELIOT, as a "literary and social" Club, and a few years later, at the date of the membership of FISHER AMES, it seems to have taken a deep interest in the politics of the nation. The tradition has remained that the first members, consisting of young men, instituted a simple, social Club to meet on the Wednesday evening of each week, throughout the year, without any further aim than to enjoy the pleasurable converse afforded by the regular coming together of an equal number of persons of the three learned professions ; each contributing from his knowledge, experience, or geniality whatever might conduce to the general pleasure.

Whatever the proposed objects of the Club might have been, they were probably different from and simpler than those of other Clubs at the same period existent in the town. In 1781, we have an account in Chastellux's "Travels in North America" of a Club comprised of older men. "This assembly is held every Tuesday in rotation, at the houses of the different members who compose it. This was the day for Mr.

Russell, a genial merchant, who gave us an excellent reception. The laws of the Club are not stringent: the number of dishes for supper alone are limited, and there must be only two of meat, for supper is not the American repast. Vegetables, pies, and especially good wine are not spared. The hour of assembling is after tea, when the company play at cards, converse, and read the public papers, and sit down to table between nine and ten. The supper was as free as if there had been no strangers. Songs were given out at table, and a Mr. Stewart sung some which were very gay, with a tolerable good voice."

Brissot, Warville,[1] gives a further account of this same Club. He says "there are many clubs at Boston. Mr. Chastellux speaks of a particular club, which met once a week, and to which he was invited. I have been there many times, and I have always been thoroughly satisfied by the geniality of its members toward strangers, and by the general knowledge shown in their conversations. This Club comprises only sixteen members, each of whom is admitted only by unanimous election. Each member may bring a stranger to the meetings, which are held in turn at the house of each member.

[1] Nouveau voyage dans les Etats-Unis en 1788, Vol. I. pp. 123, 124.

Clubs do not now meet any more at the taverns, and this is an improvement: less is drank, wine costs less, and the whole expense is less."

A year later, there is record of another club. "Jemmy Vila was at one time host of the celebrated Bunch of Grapes Tavern, but afterward removed to Concert Hall in 1789; and it was there that a club met, of which Mr. Adams and Mr. Breck were members. Another member was the late Josiah Quincy."[1] Nothing more has been learned relative to this club.

In 1793, the same authority gives an account of still another organization. "His (Mr. James Allen's) conversation was polished, fluent, and very amusing. Once a week a Pistareen Club met at his house, at which no individual could spend more than twenty cents. The members consisted of the first people of the town; and a more witty, smart, and intellectually refined association, could nowhere be met in the Union."[2]

At the time of its foundation, as we have seen, the Wednesday Evening Club consisted of nine members. In 1778, it was enlarged by the admission of three merchants; in 1787, it contained fourteen members; in 1792, seventeen members; and it varied from that number to twelve in 1803, and thirteen in 1812. Previous

[1] Recollections of Samuel Breck, p. 122, note.

[2] Ibid. pp. 190, 191.

to 1787, the number of members of each profession had been enlarged to four; and this system continued substantially in practice till the year 1830, when the mercantile membership was increased so as to include manufacturers and gentlemen of letters and leisure. While retaining the original limitation of four to each of the learned professions, the Club was increased in 1857 to twenty-five members, and in 1873 to thirty members, its present number.

The total number of past and present members of the Club, so far as can now be ascertained, is one hundred and fourteen; of these ninety-one were graduates of Harvard College, ten of other colleges, and thirteen had not received a collegiate education.

ELIOT. — The Rev. John Eliot was the son of the Rev. Andrew and Elizabeth (Langdon) Eliot, and was born in Boston, May 31, 1754. Graduated at Harvard College in 1772; ordained as successor to his father over the Second Church in Boston, Nov. 3, 1779; married Ann, daughter of Jacob Treadwell of Portsmouth, N. H., Sept. 10, 1784, and died in Boston Feb. 14, 1813, aged sixty-eight.

The name of the Rev. Dr. Eliot heads the printed list of the members of the Wednesday Evening Club. In June, 1777, he was twenty-

three years of age, and his only senior in the Club, Israel Keith, was nearly twenty-six. Like every other member he was a bachelor.

Of his life, character, and works, the records are fortunately very full. Few men have lived of whom their contemporaries have written in such terms of eulogy.

His earlier years made abundant promise of the moral and intellectual development which gave such important usefulness and value to his manhood. Previous to his entering college in 1768, his teachers bore this testimony to his correctness of behavior. "Even at that early season, *he never did any thing wrong.*" He graduated with the highest honors of his class, and with the additional reputation of courteous manners, of unsullied morals, and of eminent piety.

After teaching successfully for a year at Roxbury, he returned to Cambridge, proceeding there for a time with his professional studies; and late in 1775 or early in 1776, he preached his first sermon at Dover. He afterward preached in various places, was for a short time Chaplain of Colonel Marshall's Regiment, raised for the expedition to Canada, and subsequently was employed at Littleton and Salem. After the death of his father in 1778, he was invited to take charge of his church, and was settled as pastor of the New

North Church, Nov. 3, 1779, which position he occupied with honor to himself, with the affection and respect of his parish, and with devoted labor in what he conscientiously believed to be the cause of genuine Christianity. The harmony with his people continued uninterrupted during the entire period of his ministry.

Dr. Mackean, to whose eulogy I am indebted for most of the facts in this brief notice, states that "he was a model of the domestic virtues: diffusing happiness around him; exhibiting a pattern and inculcating principles of piety, order, and benevolence."

Possessing these principles and this spirit, it is not surprising that he actively participated in the movements of the day; that he aided many of the charitable institutions in their direction and management; that he took an active interest in every plan for the advancement of schools and of public education; that he was one of the founders of the Boston Library, an institution still fulfilling its functions to the advantage of its proprietors; and that he was a firm supporter of "liberty with order" and of a constitutional government.

He was also an overseer and afterward a member of the corporation of Harvard College; was in company with Dr. Belknap, a founder of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the

largest original contributor to the early volumes of its publications.

In person, Dr. Eliot "was comely, and his countenance agreeable and interesting. His stature was rather below middle size, and his frame not muscular. His manners were remarkably like those of the old school: polite, easy, unaffected; in perfect and happy consistency with his singleness of heart and purity of character."

BRADFORD. — The Rev. John Bradford was the son of John and Margaret (Barton) Bradford, of Boston, and was born in Boston, August, 1756. Graduated at Harvard College in 1774. Ordained over the second church in Roxbury, May 30, 1785. He married Polly, daughter of Samuel Dexter of Dedham, at Woodstock, May 30, 1779, and died in Roxbury, Jan. 27, 1825, aged sixty-eight.

The printed incidents in the life of the Rev. Dr. Bradford are few. He was educated in the grammar school, and prepared for college by Master James Lovell, and attained a high rank in his class. At the time of the formation of this Club, he was nearly twenty-one years old. He began his studies for the ministry with the Rev. Dr. Samuel Cooper, which were suspended on account of the war, but resumed afterward; shortly after their conclusion, he settled at Rox-

bury, where he remained in charge of his people till a year or two before his decease.

The sketch of his character, given by Dr. Gray in the funeral sermon preached on the occasion of his death, depicts him as a good preacher, an agreeable companion, an excellent scholar, and a fervent Christian.

He is described as having been pre-eminent in social qualities, possessing original and ready wit, warm-hearted, sincere, affectionate; his conversation being seasoned by his quick penetration, and a thorough knowledge of the world.

His moral character is alleged to have been without spot or blemish, honest, upright, without deception or guile. The manner of his life secured the respect and love of those who knew him.

"He possessed," said Rev. Dr. Gray, "a truly catholic mind, too far elevated to become shackled by narrow and exclusive views, but wide and comprehensive, as were the excellent feelings of his soul. He was truly a liberal Christian, and was not ashamed or afraid to be called such. To sect or party, in religion, his enlarged mind and views, strengthened and improved by extensive reading and acquirements, could never feel confined. He loved and venerated the good of every faith, and of every name. He possessed, in a word, the mind of a scholar, the feelings of the friend, the

manners of the gentleman, and the virtues of the Christian."

GREENOUGH. — The Rev. William Greenough was the son of Deacon Thomas and Sarah (Stoddard) Greenough, and was born in Boston on the 29th June, 1756. Graduated at Yale College, 1774. Ordained over the Second Church in Newton, November, 1781. Married, first, Abigail, daughter of Rev. Stephen Badger of Natick, June 1, 1785; second, Lydia, daughter of Thomas Haskins of Boston, May 22, 1798. He died at Newton, Nov. 7, 1831, aged seventy-five.

The early years of Mr. Greenough were spent in Boston, where he fitted for college. Having an uncle resident at New Haven, Conn., he was placed under his care; went through his studies at Yale College with distinguished success, delivering the Latin oration when he graduated. He afterwards spent two years at the college, continuing his education as a resident graduate. When he became a member of this Club, he was nearly twenty-one years old. He is supposed to have studied for the ministry under the advice of his kinsman, Rev. Dr. Chauncy.

Having been settled at Newton in 1781, he passed his life in fulfilling the duties of his calling as a Christian pastor, upholding with unswerving and uncompromising fidelity the doctrines which

he held were those once transmitted to the saints. "His convictions," says the Rev. Dr. Jenks, in his sketch of his character, "were deep and thorough; his reverence for God and his word, his Sabbath and ordinances, was sincere; his deportment fearless, independent, and strictly conscientious."

In person he was large and tall, stooping somewhat in his gait. His manners were of the old school, courteous, deferentially polite, but frank and outspoken.

His sermons are said to have been distinguished for simplicity, sound practical sense, and a clear exhibition of his own well-defined views of evangelical truth. In fact, these were the characteristics of the man. He excelled in the exercise of a ripe, sedate, and almost unerring judgment, and that not only in his capacity as a minister, but in his conduct as a man, a citizen, a father, counsellor, and friend.

The portrait drawn by President Allen of Dr. Chauncy, has been considered peculiarly applicable to Mr. Greenough. "He was respected for the excellence of his character, being honest and sincere in his intercourse with his fellow-men, kind and charitable and pious. Dissimulation, which was of all things most foreign to his nature, was the object of his severest invective. His language was remarkably plain and pointed, when

he spoke against fraud, either in public bodies or in individuals."

The Chairman then called upon Dr. R. M. Hodges, in behalf of the medical department of the Club, who responded as follows: —

A register of twenty names constitutes the medical section of the Wednesday Evening Club. Two alone, besides those of active members, are of living persons; and more than half are of a generation so far past as to be unfamiliar to the physicians of the present day.

I propose briefly to narrate who were our early and later associates, and what was their position as citizens and medical men.

Dr. Thomas Welsh was born in Charlestown, Mass., June 1, 1754, and graduated at Harvard in 1772. He married Mary Kent, also of Charlestown. As Surgeon of the 27th Continental Regiment he ministered to the wounded of Lexington, and was one of the thirty-one medical men in the Battle of Bunker Hill. Having occupied many important professional positions, and earned the title of "Father of the Boston Faculty," he died in February, 1831, at his residence on "Sudbury Street, near Concert Hall," greatly respected for his social and political virtues. His name was honorably borne upon the Pension Roll of the United States.

Dr. NATHANIEL WALKER APPLETON, son of Nathaniel Appleton, merchant, of Boston, and his first wife, Mary (Walker) Appleton, and grandson of Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Appleton, for sixty-seven years the first settled minister of Cambridge, was born June 14, 1755, and graduated at Harvard in 1773. Having studied medicine with Dr. Holyoke, of Salem, he established himself in Boston about the year 1777, on "South Latin School Street, near the Stone Chapel."

Known rather for his literary than his medical attainments, he is remembered as one of the founders of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 1790, he removed from the State, and resided for a few years at Marietta, Ohio, but returned to Boston, where he died, April 15, 1795, at the early age of forty, "beloved, by his acquaintances and townsmen, for the uncommon gentleness of his manners, and his high patriotic principles."

Dr. Appleton married Sarah Greenleaf, sister of William Greenleaf, Jr., a member of the Wednesday Evening Club.

WILLIAM GREENLEAF, Jr., was born in Boston, Feb. 5, 1760. He was the son of Hon. William and Mary (Brown) Greenleaf. The father was Provincial Sheriff of Suffolk; his brother Ste-

phen holding the same office under the Royal Governor of the Province.

Mr. Greenleaf graduated at Harvard in 1777. Having but commenced the study of his profession, he died, Nov. 4, 1778, in the nineteenth year of his age, of a malignant fever, contracted on board a prison-ship in Boston harbor, where he went to separate the sick and dying from the dead, being the only medical student who would venture to undertake the task. His funeral was from his father's house on Hanover Street, forty-eight hours after his death.

Two members of the Wednesday Evening Club, Dr. Nathaniel W. Appleton, and Hon. Thomas Dawes, were Mr. Greenleaf's brothers-in-law; as, also, were Joseph Haven, Esq., of Portsmouth, N. H.; Noah Webster, the Lexicographer; and Hon. William Cranch, of Washington, D. C.

Dr. JOHN WARREN, son of Mr. Joseph Warren, a farmer of Roxbury, and of Mary (Stevens) Warren, was born July 27, 1753; entered Harvard College, at the age of fourteen, and graduated in 1771. He studied medicine in Boston and Edinburgh, and, in 1773, being only twenty years old, settled in Salem, where his practice became second only to that of Dr. Holyoke.

The death of his brother, General Joseph Warren, at Bunker Hill, determined him to join the army under Washington, to which he was of great service during the siege of Boston, and at Trenton. At the close of the war, he commenced practice in Boston, and, in 1780, delivered before the Boston Medical Association, a society still in existence, the first course of medical lectures given in this State. His lecture-room was an unused military hospital, in a pasture near where the Massachusetts General Hospital now stands. In 1783, Dr. Warren was appointed Hersey Professor of Anatomy in Harvard College, and remained in office thirty years. He was an eloquent lecturer, speaker, and writer. As a friend of civil liberty his fame extended throughout the country, and he was unexcelled as a surgeon in New England. He died April 4, 1815, aged sixty-two years. Mrs. Warren was Abigail Collins, of Newport, R. I.

Dr. Aaron Dexter, son of Richard and Rebecca (Peabody) Dexter, was born at Malden, Mass., Nov. 11, 1750. He graduated at Harvard in 1776, and established himself as a physician in Boston about the close of the Revolutionary War. Previously he made several voyages to Europe as a ship's medical officer, in one of which he was taken prisoner by the British.

Dr. Dexter was remarkable for his urbanity, and during a long and active life did much to encourage literary and charitable interests. He was one of the persons named in the act of incorporation of the Massachusetts Historical Society. He had great taste for reading, and his fondness for the study of chemistry led to his appointment, in 1783, as first Erving Professor of Chemistry and Materia Medica in Harvard College. He retained this office until 1816, and continued in the practice of his profession until the infirmities of age compelled him to retire. He died at Cambridge, Feb. 28, 1829, aged seventy-nine years.

Dr. Dexter married Rebecca Amory. His Boston residence was on "Milk Street, opposite the lower end of the rope-walks that were burned in the great fire of July 30, 1794."

Dr. John Clarke Howard was the son of Rev. Simeon Howard, D.D., pastor of the West Church in Boston, and Elizabeth (Mayhew) Howard, widow of his predecessor in office, and grand-daughter of President Leverett of Harvard College.

Dr. Howard was born in Boston in 1772; graduated at Harvard in 1790; practised medicine in the west part of the town, "winning the affections of his patients by his tender solicitude

and care;" and died August 12, 1810, at the age of thirty-eight. An obituary in the "Columbian Centinel" says that he was "a most actively benevolent and useful citizen. The simplicity of his manners, the purity of his heart, and the soundness of his understanding, procured him the love and respect of all who knew him." This notice, and some memorial verses written by his friend, Dr. Peter Bryant (father of the poet, William Cullen Bryant), contain all the information gathered in regard to Dr. Howard. His daughter, wife of Rev. C. A. Bartol, still identifies the family with the West Church of Boston; and it is interesting to note that, from 1638 to 1844, a period of two hundred and six years, the profession of medicine found in it a representative, in direct transmission from father to son, for nine successive generations. Mrs. Howard was Hepzibah Clark Swan, daughter of Colonel James Swan.

Dr. WILLIAM SPOONER, the son of John Spooner, Jr., and Hannah (Jones) Spooner, was born in Boston, March 24, 1760. He entered Harvard College in 1774. In the spring of 1775, the students were dispersed by the war. In October, 1776, they returned to Cambridge, and Dr. Spooner graduated in 1778. During his entire college course, he was the chum of Rufus

G. Amory, also a member of the Wednesday Evening Club. He studied medicine with Dr. Danforth; was Surgeon in the Navy until 1783; went to Edinburgh, graduated there in 1785, and returned to Boston in 1786. He served seven years in the Legislature of this State, five of them as Senator. While in the Senate, Dr. Spooner introduced, and carried, a bill granting a township of land in the district of Maine, then belonging to Massachusetts, to the Massachusetts Medical Society, a measure of great importance to that association. He was a fellow of many learned Societies in this country and abroad, and for a long time the oldest member of the Board of Overseers of Harvard University. "The ease of his pecuniary circumstances on starting in life, and the absorbing interests of politics, in which he afterwards engaged, were not favorable to professional success;" but his patients were among the most respectable families in Boston.

Dr. Spooner married Mary Phillips, daughter of Mary Winthrop, and direct descendant of Governor Winthrop. After her decease he married Elizabeth Rogers. By these two wives he had sixteen children, eight of whom survived him. He died at his residence on Cambridge Street, Feb. 15, 1836, at the age of seventy-six.

Dr. JOHN GORHAM COFFIN son of Rev. Paul Coffin, D.D., and Mary (Gorham) Coffin, sister of Hon. Nathaniel Gorham, sometime President of the Continental Congress, was born in Narragansett, No. 1, a township granted to those who overcame the Indian King Philip in 1675, and which is now the town of Buxton, Me. The Rev. Dr. Coffin went there when the place had been but nineteen years settled, and from 1773 until 1817 he received a salary of $222. For four years this was paid in corn, grain, and labor. During the war, he did not receive $20 in specie. On this small stipend he brought up fourteen children.

Dr. Coffin was educated by his father. It could hardly be otherwise than that "his youth should have been spent in great seclusion, and that, if deprived of the advantages, it was also sheltered from the temptations of a college life." In 1788, he began the study of medicine with his uncle, Dr. Charles Coffin, of Newbury; was admitted to practise in 1791, and pursued his profession at Buxton for a short time. In 1794, he was commissioned Surgeon's Mate in the United States Army, and was on duty at Fort Niagara until 1798. He settled in Boston about the year 1800, and resided for a long period in Central Court. In 1811, he took a medical degree at Harvard.

Dr. Coffin was the promoter of various charitable societies, and was held in high esteem by his associates. For several years he was editor of the Boston "Medical Intelligencer," the predecessor of the present "Boston Medical and Surgical Journal." Retiring from the profession in 1828, he died at Brookfield, Mass., Jan. 22, 1829, aged fifty-nine years. Mrs. Coffin was Elizabeth Rice, daughter of Dr. Tilly Rice of Brookfield.

Dr. GEORGE HAYWARD, the son of Dr. Lemuel Hayward (a revolutionary surgeon, too patriotic to be tempted by the British commission which his rich official patients offered him) and of Sarah (Henshaw) Hayward, was born in Boston, March 9, 1791. He graduated at Harvard in 1809; took his medical degree at the University of Pennsylvania in 1812; was Professor of Surgery in the medical department of Harvard College for fourteen years (1835–1849); a member of its corporation for eleven years (1852–1863); and of the Wednesday Evening Club for thirty-eight years. He was also one of the founders of the Boston Linnæan Society, and of the Boston Society of Natural History, being the first Vice-President of the latter. He was President of the Boston Athenæum, of the Massachusetts Medical Benevolent Society, of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and of the

State Military Medical Board; and long a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Earnest and energetic, Dr. Hayward held in high estimation the profession of which he was a distinguished and experienced member. Thoroughly versed in the subject of surgery, he was a popular teacher, widely known at home and abroad.

Dr. Hayward died Oct. 7, 1863. He was twice married; his first wife being Miss Caroline Knapp, and his second, Mrs. Mary Ann Binney.

Dr. JONATHAN GREELEY STEVENSON, son of William and Hannah (Greeley) Stevenson, and brother of our lately deceased associate, J. Thomas Stevenson, was born in Boston, March 28, 1799. He entered Harvard College at the age of thirteen, and graduated in 1816. In 1817, he was appointed Usher in the Boston Latin School, and soon succeeded to the place of Sub-master. He spent the years 1824–25 in Europe, and did not take his medical degree until 1826. He entered rapidly into a large practice. Public-spirited, interested in the movement for temperance, indefatigable in the cause of education, he was founder of the "Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge," an organization which first adopted the plan of "popular lectures."

Dr. Stevenson was a scholarly and cultivated man, attractive in manners, and "such an enemy to ostentation that, to be and not to seem, might pass for the motto of his life." An invalid for many years, he died, in search of health, at White Sulphur Springs, Va., June 5, 1835, at the early age of thirty-six. He was a member of the Wednesday Evening Club for eight years. Dr. Stevenson married Martha Ann Curtis, sister of Charles P. and Thomas B. Curtis, former members of this Club.

Dr. Walter Channing, son of William and Lucy (Ellery) Channing, was born at Newport, R. I., April 15, 1786. He was a brother of Rev. William Ellery Channing, the eminent divine, and of Professor Edward Tyrrel Channing, gratefully remembered by so many Harvard graduates.

Dr. Channing graduated at Harvard in 1808; took his medical degree in 1809, at the University of Pennsylvania; was appointed Professor of Obstetrics and Medical Jurisprudence in the medical department of Harvard in 1815, and remained in office for thirty-nine years. As a speaker and writer he was "enthusiastic, discursive, somewhat unmethodical;" as an individual "his pen and voice were always ready in behalf of every social and reformatory interest." He was long recognized as a great practitioner of obstetric art,

if not as a great instructor. Dr. Channing died in July, 1876, at the age of ninety, having been twice married; first to Barbara Higginson Perkins, of Brookline, Mass.; subsequently to Elizabeth Wainwright, daughter of Peter Wainwright, of London. He withdrew from the Wednesday Evening Club in 1836, and it is not known how long he was a member.

Dr. Benjamin Daniel Greene, son of Gardiner and Elizabeth (Hubbard) Greene, was born in Demerara, South America, during the temporary residence of his parents in that place, Dec. 29, 1793. His mother having died while he was yet a child, her maternal cares were assumed by Elizabeth Copley, a sister of Lord Lyndhurst. His father was well known as the wealthiest citizen of Boston.

Dr. Greene graduated at Harvard in 1812. Educated a lawyer, and admitted to the Boston Bar, he subsequently studied medicine, taking his medical degree in Edinburgh, but never practising his profession. A diligent student of Botany, he was one of the founders, and a generous benefactor, of the Boston Natural History Society, of which he was the first President. A quiet, cultivated, and discriminating gentleman, his memory is still preserved through the wise and considerate liberality with which he disposed of a large for-

tune, to promote the investigations of others in that department of science which had most interested himself.

Dr. Greene married Margaret Morton Quincy, a daughter of the Hon. Josiah Quincy. He died Oct. 14, 1862, having been a member of the Wednesday Evening Club for twenty-six years.

Dr. JOHN HOMANS, son of John Homans, a Revolutionary patriot, and Surgeon of the Continental Army, and of Sally (Dalton) Homans, was born in Boston, Sept. 18, 1783.

Dr. Homans graduated at Harvard in 1812, and commenced practice at Brookfield, but soon removed to his native city. He was President of the Massachusetts and Suffolk District Medical Societies; member of the Society of the Cincinnati; Trustee of the Massachusetts Humane Society; and filled many positions of trust and usefulness in and out of the profession, to which he thoroughly devoted himself for more than fifty years. His cordial smile, and kind and attractive manners, are still fresh in the recollection of all who knew him. Dr. Homans married Caroline Walker of Boston. He died April 17, 1868, at the age of seventy-four. He was a member of the Wednesday Evening Club for thirty-two years. His oldest son, Dr. Charles Dudley Homans, is an active associate of the Club.

Dr. CHARLES MIFFLIN, the son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Davis) Mifflin, was born in Philadelphia, July 19, 1805. Graduating from the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, he began practice in his native city, and rendered distinguished services in the year of the cholera, to the study of which disease he had given particular attention, at home and in Europe, where he went, in 1830, as Surgeon of the corvette "Kensington," presented by the United States to the Russian Government.

Dr. Mifflin married Mary, daughter of Hon. B. W. Crowninshield, and removed to Boston in 1838. Although not devoting himself exclusively to medical practice, he was the first, and for a long period the only, resident physician at Nahant for the summer. Cottagers, and visitors from all parts of the country, enjoyed for many years the privilege of his professional care; and the families of fishermen living there will always remember his cheerful, generous attention.

For twenty years, Dr. Mifflin was a member of the Wednesday Evening Club, and one of its most genial companions. It has been justly said that "the most captious critic could find no flaw in his title to the rank of gentleman. Born of distinguished ancestors (his grandfather was brother of Sir Philip Francis), he owned it both by right of descent and by native qualities."

Dr. Mifflin died in Boston, Dec. 9, 1875, at the age of seventy.

Two former associates of the Wednesday Evening Club, still living, are not now among its active members.

Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, — the delighted readers of whose prose and verse are hardly more numerous than the students who, for thirty years, have listened to him as Professorial successor to John Warren, — after having been a member of the Club for eighteen years, withdrew in 1853.

Dr. Jacob Bigelow, — the influence and judicious teaching of whose long life have always checked too confident or hasty reliance on prevalent and vague assumptions; retaining, at the age of ninety, an active interest in public and private events, of which he has been so wise and thoughtful an observer — still maintains, as Honorary Member, a relation to the Club which has now lasted for forty-two years.

If the occasion permitted, it would have been an agreeable task to trace the influence which each of the Physicians to whom I have briefly alluded, exercised in this Club, and to set forth in more extended detail his social and intellectual qualities. I can only suggest that traits of char-

acter, such as are fostered by that intimate intercourse with families and individuals which was their especial privilege, must have largely helped to perpetuate the harmony, and animate the social spirit which have carried us so happily through a century's existence.

Mr. GEORGE O. SHATTUCK in behalf of the law department of the Club presented the following: —

I can say but little this evening of the lawyers whose names are upon the roll of this club.

Of the eight now living it is not time to speak. Of the seventeen who have died, nearly all were conspicuous for character and public services, and our libraries are full of the records of their lives.

I need only call the names of THOMAS DAWES, the Judge of the Municipal Court of Boston and of the Supreme Judicial Court of the Commonwealth; of GEORGE R. MINOT, the historian and Judge of Probate; of FISHER AMES, the orator and statesman; of RUFUS G. AMORY, a leader of the bar at the beginning of the century; of JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, the sixth President of the United States; of JOHN DAVIS, the scholar, and for forty years Judge of the United States District Court for this District; of JOSIAH QUINCY, the orator, and President of Harvard College; of WILLIAM PRESCOTT, the statesman and counsel-

lor; of DANIEL DAVIS, long the Solicitor-General of the Commonwealth; of JAMES SAVAGE, the antiquarian, and President of the Historical Society; of BENJAMIN R. CURTIS, the Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States; and of THOMAS ASPINWALL, the soldier, and for many years Consul of the United States in London.

ISRAEL KEITH, whose name stands first on the list, left Boston and his profession at an early age, and removed to Pittsford, in Vermont, where he died, January 5, 1819. But he rendered important public service as one of the Aids of Governor Hancock, and as Adjutant General of the Commonwealth.

The lives of EDWARD GRAY, CHARLES P. CURTIS, and FRANCIS C. GRAY, are briefly recorded with those of DAWES, MINOT, AMES, ADAMS, DAVIS, QUINCY, and SAVAGE, of the dead, and with those of WINTHROP, QUINCY, and CHANDLER, of the living, in "The Hundred Boston Orators."

BENJAMIN GUILD was content to honor a private station by his integrity and benevolence.

But, while I can recall but little of the members of this section of the Club, which is not well known to you all and to most students of history, it may not be uninteresting to call attention to the letters of FISHER AMES, one of the most distinguished of its members, through which

we catch a glimpse of the history and purposes of the Club between the years 1789 and 1795.

Mr. Ames was elected to the first Congress of the United States, which met in New York in May, 1789. He was then thirty-one years old. The other members of the Club were not far from his age. Some of them had probably met each week for twelve years. During those years the revolution had succeeded, the Confederation had been established and had failed, and the new Constitution had been framed and adopted.

The members of the Club had made their plans for life, and had entered upon its active stage. They were full of enthusiasm and public spirit. They appear to have established among themselves most intimate and affectionate relations.

When Mr. Ames went to Congress, the Club or some of its members were his most confidential advisers; and he playfully treated them as his chief constituents.

His most intimate friend appears to have been Mr. GEORGE R. MINOT, who was four years his junior in college, but was admitted to the bar at the same time.

Mr. Ames's letters intended for the Club were, so far as they appear, addressed to Mr. Minot, as "Dear George," or "My dear friend," and sometimes as "Dear sir." The following extract

from a letter, written soon after Mr. Ames went to Congress, shows his relations to the Club and that a regular correspondence was proposed.

"New York, May 31, 1789.

"Dear Friend, — . . . You propose a weekly exchange of letters. You call yourself the Father Carnes of the Club. You will not pretend to be of so much importance to a member of the Federal House as that gentleman would be . . . The Club are, however, my constituents, as Major Reed says; and *I cannot disobey the instructions of my constituents.* I am already remarkable for my scribbling: my fellow members call me the Secretary of State. I will not promise punctuality; but, if I may calculate upon the future by the past, I shall write twice a week. I leave it to the clerical members of the Club to decide whether my letters would not read better if they were not so long and so frequent."

He did not long write with the desired regularity, as, in a letter of July 2, 1789, he says: —

"You seem to consider me as a kind of traitor to your expectations of a weekly letter. In solemn truth, I set out better than I can hold out. While I scribbled the hasty reflections which occurred to me, and which came in more plenty because the novelty of my situation supplied them, I imposed no guard upon my prudence, and felt little reserve. But, inasmuch as your Club expect my communications, I begin to put on a wise face and to calculate how very profound the remarks must be which will be worthy the attention of those gentlemen."

Some of his letters are quite long political essays; some of them contain reports of the doings of Congress, with his comments. He

sometimes consults the Club, and replies to their criticisms. He left it to the discretion of Minot to read the whole or any part of several of the letters.

Mr. Minot appears to have criticised him with great freedom and even with severity. Mr. Ames sometimes defended himself, but always accepted the advice in good part. In a letter of May 29, 1789, which he requested Mr. Minot to read as little of as he thought fit, referring to some advice which he had received, he writes: —

"Your giving it is very far from hurting my pride. If I had not to a very great degree your good wishes, you would not have done the act of kindness which calls for my gratitude. I am proud that you think my temper will bear it, and I submit to your friendly discipline with cheerfulness. Submit, did I say? I ask it; I entreat it. Your friendship will be useful, as it has always been agreeable. Your office will not be a sinecure."

He then defends himself against several charges which Mr. Minot appears to have made; among them, of having spoken with contempt of Mr. Madison, of betraying too much warmth in argument, and of being ambitious.

In a letter of May 14, 1789, he replies to criticisms, probably made on Washington's first address to the two houses of Congress, but possibly upon one of his own, as follows: —

"Your, I mean our, Wednesday night Club is very censorious, and I suppose my hypercriticism on their criticism

will not be spared. I thank Mr. Eliot and Mr. Minot, for their loyalty and taste. The sentences are rather long and not so simply constructed as Blair would have them, but may not the meaning be readily known? Is not a very considerable degree of beauty and elegance consistent with a small degree of obscurity?

"I admire the sentiments. The writer seems to have thought and felt what he wrote. Addresses are commonly made by turning a crank of Swift's Essay mill. *This* is the work of the head and heart, and I will maintain, in spite of the Club, is evidence of the superior excellence of both. Had the Club attended the delivery of it, I think their censure would have been spared. My compliments to them, and let them know I am ready to obey their instructions like a good man and true."

Although Mr. Minot is referred to in the letter in the third person, it was addressed to him and ends with, "I am, dear George, yours affectionately."

In the correspondence, he refers by name to ELIOT and FREEMAN among the clerical members of the Club, to DAWES and MINOT of the lawyers, to APPLETON and DEXTER of the physicians, and to WILLIAM SMITH, who is put down as of the fourth class.

From a careful reading of these letters, it is not easy to escape the conclusion that the young men who founded the Club expected by conference, and perhaps by co-operation, to do some public service. There is no evidence that they acted in any way as an organization, but their meetings were not then purely social. In a letter of July 16, 1792, after inquiring whether

any thing would be done for the college, and in connection with a wish that ten per cent of the wild lands could be reserved for it, he wrote, "I consider our Club as ordained and set apart once a week for any good which tends to promote learning."

It does not appear to have met for political purposes, but it may be fairly inferred that the Club, or some of its members, had actively promoted the election of Mr. Ames, and felt in consequence, a warm interest in his success and in some sense a responsibility for it. But this does not prove much as to the purposes of the Club; for it was not to be expected that any organization of such men at that time, when the new Constitution was upon its first trial, would meet regularly without discussing, to some extent, political questions.

Hon. PELEG W. CHANDLER was then called upon by the Chairman, and addressed the Club: —

MR. CHANDLER said that when it was first proposed to have a centennial celebration of the Club, he was heartily in favor of the project, although he did not expect to take any active part in the business. Increasing deafness — an inability to hear ordinary conversation — had long placed him on the retired list for such occasions. He had accepted the situation with what cheer-

fulness and composure he could command, and had not been disposed to murmur at the inevitable, or to volunteer any service where the ear must perform an important part. He was taken somewhat by surprise, therefore, by the information that he was expected to respond for the legal profession. Nor was the surprise unmixed with satisfaction, — the harmless vanity, if you please, of one who has often played his part, and is not altogether unwilling to show himself before the curtain on a special occasion, although fully mindful of the fact, that —

"Superfluous lags the veteran on the stage."

For more than thirty years he had been a member of the Club, and was a pretty constant attendant. It was a satisfaction, now and here, to acknowledge the forbearance which had always been exhibited towards his infirmity, and the unfailing courtesy of his brother members in persuading him by their manner that his presence was not unacceptable to them, — a courtesy and forbearance which had greatly strengthened his conviction, that every one has a place in the social system if he is capable of finding it, —

"They also serve who only stand and wait."

At the same time, the embarrassment of one in his position, when called upon to speak on an

occasion like this, was not inconsiderable. Imagine a man who has not heard his own voice for a dozen years; who is not conscious, when addressing an audience, whether he is speaking with the voice of a Stentor, or "roaring gently as a sucking dove;" who knows nothing of what has gone before, hears no plaudits of his wit and wisdom, and must receive the congratulations of his friends through a hideous tube, the sight of which is enough to check the wildest enthusiasm and "freeze the genial current of the soul." Originally he had anticipated great pleasure at this meeting, in recalling the memories of the past, in reflecting on the fine characters of those who have left us, and in the cordial greetings of those who remain. But when he became aware of the expectation that he was to take an active part in the proceedings, there was, it must be admitted, a sudden revulsion in his feelings. A respectable citizen once determined to have a grand funeral on the decease of his wife. He even invited her mother to be present. The affair proceeded in a satisfactory way, until the chief mourner was informed by the master of ceremonies that he was to ride to the grave with his mother-in-law. "Never," he exclaimed, "never will I enter a carriage with that odious woman." "But you must. To refuse will create a scandal. Besides, it is the proper thing to do."

"Well," he replied, after some hesitation, "if I must, I will; but I wish you to understand that *it takes away half the pleasure I anticipated on this occasion!*"

When the Emperor of Russia visited England, many years ago, he expressed great astonishment at the rank and influence of lawyers, saying that there never was but one lawyer in his dominions, and he was speedily put out of the way by hanging. We all know the fate of the unhappy barrister who came to Massachusetts under the first charter, and how speedily he found that his presence was not wanted. The despotism of Russia and that of the Puritans of Massachusetts in criminal affairs were not unlike; and to each the existence of a profession whose duty is to assist every citizen in the maintenance of his legal rights, and especially to stand forth fearlessly in defence of those assailed by the constituted authorities, would not be agreeable or even safe. To this day nothing astonishes a Russian nobleman so much as seeing the estimation in which the legal profession — the profession of Cicero and Demosthenes — is held in England and America. Justice is venal throughout the whole Muscovite, as in all Oriental, dominions. An eminent author, in alluding to this fact, remarks that "an equal and impartial administration of

justice is the appropriate and peculiar blessing of a free government: it can neither exist in a despotic monarchy nor a democratic republic; for, in the first case, there is nothing to counterbalance the frowns of the sovereign; in the second, to withstand the passions of the people." It is matter of history that civil liberty finds no more staunch supporters than lawyers; and that an upright, able, and independent judiciary is simply impossible where the materials to form it cannot be found at the bar. Nor could it exist at all in troublous times, but for the support it receives from those who practise in the tribunals, and who have always been ready to stand in its defence by their character and ability, and by their lives when necessary. In all the machinery of political and social life, the saving and aggressive force of character is nowhere more conspicuous than in those contests where the bench and the bar have stood together in the defence of liberty, in resistance to popular clamor, in the assertion of principles which lie at the foundation of social order, and in the protection of the weak when assailed either by those in rightful authority, or those who are in the exercise of an unjust and lawless control of the State. There have been ambitious and unprincipled men on the bench, and there have been mean and unscrupulous practitioners at the bar; but, upon the

whole, the legal profession has worked for the benefit of civilization and the advancement of all good things in the social problem. When, therefore, the Emperor hung the only lawyer in his dominions, he had an instinctive regard for irresponsible power, and felt the incompatibility between unquestioned prerogative and the existence of a profession, whose duty it is to question every thing which affects the rights of the citizen, and which constantly holds over the weak the protection of law, whoever may be the assailant.

The Colonists of Massachusetts Bay, in driving away the only lawyer in the community by instructing him "to plead no man's cause except his own," saw plainly enough, that the profession could never be in harmony with the illegal and extraordinary proceedings which they considered essential for their existence as a religious community. It should be remembered, that in the Salem witchcraft proceedings, no lawyer was concerned: two of the judges were clergymen, two physicians, and one was a merchant. Sir Matthew Hale was a great lawyer and a firm believer in witchcraft: he was about half priest, and his notions of administering the criminal law were greatly mixed with womanly fancies and religious fanaticism. Lord Holt, equally learned as a lawyer, equally virtuous and conscientious as a man, and free from the re-

ligious peculiarities of Hale, opened the eyes of the public in England to the folly of these trials by applying to them the severe and inflexible principles of the law.

After the abrogation of the first charter in Massachusetts Bay, trained lawyers came upon the stage, and there was soon found a bench and a bar of learned, able, and even brilliant professional men, who took a leading part in the subsequent contest for civil liberty and equal rights. It would be interesting to examine the close connection between the growing influence of the bar and the progress of liberal principles. This point did not escape the attention of Mr. Burke, who, in his masterly speech on conciliation with America, said that in no country in the world was the law so generally studied as in America; and he had been told by a bookseller that in no branch of his business, after tracts of popular devotion, were so many books as those on the law exported to the plantations. It will be remembered that General Gage declared that all the people in Massachusetts were lawyers or smatterers in law, and that in Boston they had been enabled, by successful chicane, wholly to evade many parts of one of the English capital penal constitutions.

As to the effect of the study and practice of law on individual character, a great deal has been

said; but the difference between lawyers and laymen is so great, and the standpoint of each is so far apart, that it would be vain to expect an agreement upon questions that go to the foundation of ethical philosophy. How is it possible for an honest man to argue on the wrong side of a case, is a puzzling question for the uninitiated; but how you are to know which *is* the wrong side, before a legal investigation, is a question it is more difficult for them to answer. Why should a man who confesses his guilt be defended at all, is asked with a triumphant air; and the answer is equally pointed, that men have often confessed to crimes that they never committed, and the books are full of cases to show that alleged confessions are the most deceitful things in the world. Admitting a man to be guilty of some offence, the precise quality of his act, the degree of the crime, and the just punishment to be awarded, are points that involve grave considerations and often test the highest powers of the mind for a correct solution. All right thinking men have a horror of lawless violence, even where the victim only meets his deserts; but it is certainly true that cruel injustice, and outrageous and oppressive measures have had the sanction of respectable judicial tribunals, and almost always because the restraining influence of the bar was for the time inoperative.

Absolute justice in civil cases is impossible in the dealings of men. All we can hope is an approximation to the right; and no better machinery has yet been devised than this, which brings to each side a trained mind to investigate and defend that side before a tribunal capable of deciding justly on the whole case when thus presented. The effect on the advocate is of course likely to be in a sense one-sided; but this is counteracted by the fact that he is at different periods on every and all sides, and does not necessarily connect himself or his own opinions with any. "I do not sleep with my clients," was the homely remark of a lawyer in large practice. "If I did, I should long ago have been dead of a disease which requires large quantities of sulphur for its cure. I advise them as to the legal points. I present their side of a case to the courts. I do not enter into their feelings or share their antipathies."

There is certainly one condition of the study and practice of the Law, which must exert a beneficial influence over the mental faculties, and tend to large and liberal views and to great toleration of differences of opinion. A lawyer is constantly upon trial. In every contest at the bar, and, indeed, in almost every professional proceeding, his method and his conclusions are put to an immediate test by the sharp opposition

and critical examination of minds that are just as able and acute as his own. Consider his position! At any hour he may be called upon to give an opinion upon some novel point. He knows perfectly well that it is to be carefully examined by others, and any fallacy will be unsparingly exposed. He prepares himself for some great contest at the bar. He examines the subject with all the ability he has. He carefully studies every point. He brings all the learning and experience he has acquired in years of practice to bear upon the investigation, and he presents the case with what eloquence and persuasive force he can command. Immediately there comes upon the other side an opponent of equal ability, who has examined the subject with equal care, and who proceeds to tear down the edifice which has been erected with so much labor. And then stands forth the judge, and sweeps away every thing before him, sometimes with an amiable vigor or an exasperating coolness, or a cat-like playfulness, — exposing the fallacy of the argument, denying the appositeness of the citations and perhaps quoting some case directly to the point, which none of the counsel had discovered. Then twelve men in a box return a verdict, which the unfortunate advocate is tempted to consider an outrage upon justice. And now the unhappy lawyer retires from the scene to the congratula-

tions of his disappointed client. This is not once or twice in a year; it is the business of his whole life. Occasionally, the result is more agreeable; but in those cases the opposing counsel have the misfortune to lose. If a course of life like this, extending through the active years of human existence, will not take the conceit out of a man and make him tolerant in differences of opinion, he must be pretty well hardened by natural organization. If clergymen could be subjected to this ordeal, they would go into the pulpit with a less confident air, and "deal damnation round" in terms less mighty than we sometimes observe. Consider, too, if every doctor should have each case examined by some other doctor, who was regularly employed to pick his theory of the disease to pieces! Hogarth's famous picture of the dying prodigal, with the enraged physicians quarrelling in the anteroom over the nature of the malady, would have its counterpart in many a household.

Mr. Chairman, — In the long list of lawyers who have belonged to this Club, during the century now completed, there are the names of some distinguished men, who did their duty in their day and generation, and have left stainless reputations for which the living members may well take confidence and be proud. Of the living, it

is hardly proper to speak on this occasion. Of the dead, there is one name I desire to recall, because he was in many respects a remarkable man, and because, soon after his decease, I received a letter in regard to him from a distinguished clergyman, to which I made no answer at the time. With your permission, I will take the liberty to read the principal part of this letter, as it calls out some points that may not be devoid of interest in relation to the *morale* of the profession.

October 16, 1874.

My dear Mr. Chandler, — My spirit is a good deal moved within me.

I knew Mr. B. R. Curtis to be a person of extraordinary powers of discrimination, — and of clear head, and of strong power of statement. I remember that very early in his life this secured him high position at the bar, and the enthusiastic homage of younger men such as I have never seen paralleled.

In thirty-five years, I remember no instance in which he used these extraordinary powers in the service of man, unless for a retainer. They have been years of crisis and revolution in his country, and I remember no word or act of his for his country. I remember no exertion of what people would call public spirit, on his part, even to serving at a caucus or on a charity committee.

The Dred Scott decision was forced on him because such a man must say what he thought about law.

I remember that when the Supreme Court of the United States was bad enough in its make, he coolly stepped aside to give Buchanan an opportunity to appoint another Southern Judge in his place; because he could earn more money at the bar than on the bench. . . .

Such a man as this dies, — with such an account to give of the extraordinary powers with which God has endowed him, — and the *Bar* proceed to a series of eulogies on him, as if Marshall or Mansfield or Somers had died. A man would say that the only object for which God made a great lawyer is that he might earn large fees.

I am free to say that I think the position of men in our profession, who ought to teach young men that they live not to earn fees, but for their country and mankind, is made very difficult by such unanimity of eulogy.

I wish somebody would write something which would give somebody some notion that some lawyers believe that there is something else to live for than the turning of stones into bread. Truly yours, —— ——

To these remarks, I will make an answer now and here, since it enables me to allude more fully to the remarkable traits of our deceased friend, and also to meet objections that are often made in discussing the characters of eminent lawyers.

My DEAR SIR, — It is a considerable time since I received your note in regard to Judge Curtis. I hesitated to reply to it, because I had more feeling on the subject of your criticisms than I cared to express, and because the letter did not seem to call for any answer on my part. The object of your communication appeared to be to induce some protest from a member of the bar against the eulogies that had been pronounced on this distinguished jurist. You made this suggestion in the wrong quarter, because, if I should say any thing on the occasion of his death, it would be to commend more emphatically the eulogies which were pronounced upon one of the most able, useful, and remarkable men of our day.

I knew Judge Curtis very well for many years. When in active practice at the bar, I had occasion to confer with

him frequently on business matters. I have been associated with him in the trial of causes. I have been opposed to him in encounters at the bar. For years I met him almost every week at the Law Club, where there were only a dozen members, and where there was necessarily considerable intimacy and the opportunity of observing the peculiarities of individuals. I have been his guest, and have indeed seen him in almost every relation in life. I never heard him utter a mean sentiment, or indulge in a vulgar expression, or do or say any thing that was not in accordance with the highest notions of honor and principle, of the greatest delicacy, of the most entire simplicity and unostentatious purity. He was really an admirable character. The apparent coldness of his manner entirely disappeared when you got beneath the bark, and there was an almost womanly tenderness and affectionate simplicity in cases of distress or trouble. Of his learning, of his wonderful power of statement, of his logical acumen as a lawyer, there is no occasion to speak even to you; but his attainments as a scholar, his knowledge of English literature especially, and his familiarity with the prominent topics of the day, were very much greater than was supposed by many who thought they knew him well. If not so voluminous a reader as Mr. Choate, his judgment was more trustworthy and his critical ability more valuable. His conversational powers, if less brilliant, made a stronger impression and had the air of a far greater sincerity.

There is one point in your letter which greatly disappoints me, because it indicates a narrowness of view, which, as it seems to me, is not in accordance with the liberality of your own professions, and the broad basis of your teachings from the pulpit and of your admirable writings as an author. You say you remember no instance in which he used his extraordinary powers in the interest of man except for a retainer; that you remember no word or act of his for his country; that you remember no exertion of what you call public spirit on his part, even to serving at a caucus or on a charity

committee. Has it never occurred to you, is it no part of your philosophy or of the religion which you teach, that a man's ambition to be great, or famous, or noted of others, should disappear in a willingness to be *what he is?* Then he "may fill a high place without pride, and a low one without humiliation." Has it never occurred to you, that the great want of the ages, and especially of this active, bustling, pushing age, is the lack of men of first-class ability, who will devote themselves with patient industry and honest endeavor to the exact performance of the precise duties of their vocation, without a thought of popular applause, of vulgar notoriety, or newspaper fame? Is it your opinion that men of this sort, when they are found doing honest work from honest motives, are less useful to the world, from what they actually accomplish and from the splendid example they show to the young, than the managers of Dorcas societies or the chairmen of charity committees, or those who are everlastingly conspicuous at "primary meetings?" Have you forgotten the splendid sentence of the great philosophical statesman and orator? "Because half a dozen grasshoppers under a fern make the field ring with their importunate chink, whilst thousands of great cattle reposed beneath the shadow of the British oak chew the cud and are silent, pray do not imagine that those who make the noise are the only inhabitants of the field; that, of course, they are many in number; or that, after all, they are other than the little, shrivelled, meagre, hopping, though loud and troublesome insects of the hour." Let me remind you, that, in the vast and complicated machinery of society, there are many wheels, every one of which is essential in the scheme of the Great Architect, who created and overlooks the whole. Sometimes the most important of all is not even recognized by the eye of man, but plies its ponderous power in darkness or obscurity, and accomplishes results that can only be fully appreciated when human affairs are seen in the light of the future.

Mr. Curtis entered upon an arduous and absorbing pro-

fession with the intention of devoting his whole life to the service of man in this capacity. His industry was constant, unremitting, wonderful. His integrity was never questioned. He was simple, truthful, and entirely devoted to the duties of the hour. Of the amount of good that he has actually done in guarding the interests, protecting the rights, and establishing the just claims of those he served, we can never know. Of the benefit he rendered to society, by devoting himself entirely to the performance of those duties which were incumbent upon him, he was probably never conscious himself. Of the high and enduring reputation he won by furnishing a noble example to his countrymen of one whose abilities were of the highest order, who never sought a political office, who never

> . . . "crooked the pregnant hinges of the knee,
> Where thrift may follow fawning;"

who was firm, manly, consistent, independent in every thing he said or did, I shall not trust myself to speak. No doubt Mr. Curtis was paid and most liberally paid for his services by those for whom he rendered them. For my part, I see no more degradation in this than in persons of much higher professions than he who do not hesitate to receive pay for preaching sermons, or making prayers, or lecturing before lyceums, or writing for newspapers or magazines. When you desire any member of the bar to protest against the warm encomiums on this great jurist, you must apply to one who knew him less than

Your obedient servant, P. W. CHANDLER.

[After the meeting of the Club, the venerable Judge Sprague, now eighty-four years old, mentioned an incident in his own practice, so remarkable and so illustrative of the necessity of a legal profession to protect the rights of the citizen, that he was requested to put it in writing. He did so, and his letter is as follows: —]

Boston, June 5, 1877.

Peleg W. Chandler, Esquire.

My dear Sir, — In compliance with your request, I now put on paper by dictation what I recently related to you respecting Merriam's case.

In 1834, while residing in Maine, I went to Wiscasset to attend the Circuit Court of the United States. Soon after entering the Court House, a stranger came to me, and said he wished to engage me. We stepped into a lobby, and I asked him what the case was; in reply he said that his name was Merriam, that he was postmaster at Camden, and that he had been bound over on a charge of abstracting money from the mail. I said, if you are bound over, you have had a hearing before a magistrate: what was the evidence in that hearing? tell me as fully as you can. He replied that there were three witnesses against him: Mr. Mitchell, the postmaster at Portland; Mr. Pickard, the mail contractor; and the driver of the stage. Mr. Mitchell testified that letters containing money having been several times lost from the eastern mail, he was employed by the Postmaster-General to detect the offenders; that, for that purpose, he went to Belfast, and there he and Mr. Pickard, the mail contractor, prepared a letter addressed to General McLellan of Bath, purporting to contain a remittance from a debtor; that, into this letter, they put a sum of money, in bank-bills, and made it up in such a manner as to appear to contain something, and be easily distinguished from other letters; that they put it into the mail-bag, which was taken by the driver into the stage; that they (Mitchell and Pickard) took a chaise and accompanied the stage leaving Belfast in the night; that they arrived at a post-office, between Belfast and Camden; that the bag was carried into the office, and in due time brought out, and then examined by all three, Mitchell, Pickard, and the driver, and the letter to McLellan was found in it; that they then proceeded on their way, till they came to the post-office in Camden; that the mail-bag with the letter to McLellan in

it was taken into the office, and, after the usual time, was brought out and put into the stage; that they then drove some distance from the village, there stopped, took the bag from the stage and carried it to the chaise; and there they opened the bag, took out all the letters and papers and placed the letters on one end of the seat of the chaise, and the papers on the other, and then they all examined the bag; that they took each letter and each paper by itself and put them back into the bag, and the letter to General McLellan was not there. The bag was then taken by the driver to the stage, and he proceeded on his way. Mitchell and Pickard returned to the village, and had the postmaster arrested for abstracting money from the mails. Mr. Pickard testified to the same facts, confirming Mr. Mitchell in every particular. The driver also was a witness, and confirmed all that had been testified, as to his participation in the business. In answer to questions, Merriam stated that all three of the witnesses swore that the letter to General McLellan was in the mail-bag when it went into the office at Camden, and was not in the bag when it came out; and the driver testified that there was no one in the office but the postmaster. I asked my client what evidence he had. He replied that he had not any evidence. I then asked him what he had to say; he answered that all he could say was, he was in his office that morning alone. The mail-bag was brought to him; he opened it as usual, took out the letters for Camden, put in those that were to go forward, closed the bag, locked it, and delivered to the driver who carried it away, and that was all he knew about it.

Such was the case of my client, as presented by himself. What was my duty? It is true he denied that he was guilty, but so can every criminal, and all do who employ counsel. He admitted that he had not the slightest evidence to offer against the testimony of three respectable witnesses, and that he had not a word to say in explanation. Ought I to have flared up with virtuous indignation, and at once refused to aid a man to escape punishment who was

so palpably guilty? That was not my course; but, after reflecting a few minutes, I said, "Have you ever caused inquiry to be made of General McLellan whether he received that letter?" He replied, "No, I never thought of such a thing." I then advised him to send a person immediately to Bath and ask General McLellan if he had any knowledge of such a letter, and also to make the same inquiry of the postmaster at Bath. He sent a man accordingly, who in due time returned and reported that General McLellan said that he did receive such a letter, on the day which he named, and which was a short time only before. When he received the letter, he had no recollection of the writer, but supposed it was all right. The messenger then went to the postmaster, who said that he recollected such a letter, that it came by the eastern mail, on a day which he named, that he opened the mail-bag himself, and seeing a letter directed to General McLellan, which looked as if it might have money in it, he did not like to have it lying in his office, and sent it by his boy to the General. The time when the letter reached the postmaster of Bath and General McLellan, as stated by them, was the afternoon of the day on which it passed through Camden. On receiving this intelligence, I went to the district attorney, Mr. Shepley, stated what information we had obtained, and requested him to subpœna General McLellan, and the postmaster at Bath to go before the Grand Jury. He did so; and the result was, that no indictment was found, and my client was discharged. He had been so anxious that, during the absence of his messenger to Bath, he retained General Fessenden; and we, after conferring together, advised our client to bring an action against Mr. Mitchell for malicious prosecution. He did so, and recovered over sixteen hundred dollars. The case, Merriam *v.* Mitchell, is reported in Shepley's Maine Reports, about the year 1836. (13 Maine Reports, 439.)

In the foregoing, I have not undertaken to make a *verbatim* report of what was said; but I have endeav-

ored to give accurately the ideas which were conveyed thereby.

PELEG SPRAGUE by FRANCIS P. SPRAGUE.

The Chair then called upon Mr. AMORY, who made the following remarks: —

By right of primogeniture, and liable to its penalties, I am sentenced by the Committee, as a business-man, to a short speech. I find no fault with the shortness of the term of my penalty, in which you are all fellow-sufferers; but, on the contrary, should be as glad as any of you, short as it is, to have a part of it mercifully remitted, or the whole commuted to the punishment of listening to the maiden speech of another, if I could transfer my birthright to a younger brother; but according to the programme fairly implied by my appointment, embracing commerce and manufactures, and some personal notice of some prominent past members of the fourth department, I am compelled to forego my preference for extemporaneous speaking, and reduce the little I have to say to writing. Indeed, so prolific is the theme that, unless my words were as quick as thoughts, and my thoughts could be expressed in ciphers comprehensive enough to elude the malevolent telegraphic penetration of General Butler, I should exhaust my time before I could finish my exordium; and therefore, Mr. President, I am tempted, after the manner of the pulpit and

the forum, to ignore my programme altogether, except that at the close I may briefly and gratefully scatter a few simple flowers on the graves of those whom I had long known and respected, and whose memories, I am sure, on this occasion, we should all delight to honor, and to entwine with the memories of this centennial consecration.

I joined this Club at the beginning of our Civil War, and from that time to its close — now, at last, as I hope, happily reached by the united efforts of the best elements of both political parties — I have been a regular (sometimes early and always *late*) attendant at its weekly meetings; and, through all that eventful period of high political excitement and consequent asperity of party spirit, I can recall no word designed or calculated to wound the sensibilities or provoke the temper of the most sensitive member of either party at any of our meetings. It is true that, in the important principles and essential purposes of the war, all were agreed; while, in respect to the details of the measures sometimes adopted for its prosecution, wide and earnest differences of opinion were warmly entertained and emphatically expressed by every one. Still, through the four years of actual conflict; through the appalling tragedy of the assassination of one President, and the atrocious farce of the impeachment of another; through all the errors of mili-

tary interference and carpet-bag misrule at the South; and finally through all the agony of the late Presidential election, — nothing has been said or done here to disturb or ruffle the harmony or serenity of this Society: certainly a noble testimony of the friendly character and the considerate courtesy of its members. And, as our muster-roll to-day is without the name of one solitary bachelor, — containing only those of married men, young, middle-aged, and of some veterans still young enough at the eleventh hour to secure an aftermath more abundant than the average earlier crop of more youthful husbandmen, — we may hope to perpetuate the Club through the present century, and that our descendants, at their next celebration, may decorate our graves with the flowers of rhetoric, and repeat the same centennial songs of mutual praise of themselves and their fathers which have become the favorite music of our country since reaching its majority. This is strictly a convivial and social Club, without any act of incorporation or right of eminent domain; requiring no capital, as our reverend Secretary, belonging to a profession proverbially lucrative, is expected to pay all our expenses out of his own pocket, and has, I believe, done so for the last forty years, till, barred by the statute of limitations and the priority of Nature's claims, it is now too late to assess, and

would be as impossible to collect as a city tax bill; as in the mean time so many have *changed their residence* and acquired a *permanent domicile* in a place beyond the reach of the assessors. We have, I think, by-laws; but none, I believe, which any member is *bound to respect.* Time, and what is called the progress of civilization, have virtually repealed and rendered obsolete the regulation prescribing the hours of meeting and supping; and the electoral law for the admission of new members is impracticable in the changed circumstances of the different departments, and requires reform: while the sumptuary law, always the first and great commandment of every convivial club; and, like all sumptuary laws in like cases made and provided, is scrupulously evaded at every supper, and the forbidden food, so artistically disguised in some viand as to please the appetite and bribe the conscience, is always eaten with increased relish because seasoned with the flavor of transgression. There has, however, in my time been no palpable infraction of that law, except at my first supper after my admission to the Club, when, in ignorance of the regulation, I had canvas-back and snipe. The members there present, conspicuously the teachers of the moral and the practitioners of the civil law, without previous protest or remonstrance, proceeded at once to remove

all evidence of my offence in the speediest, pleasantest, and most natural way; and then, with an air of innocent complacency, attacked the host with indignant reproaches and threats of immediate expulsion, the last of which was condoned only on his promise to repeat the *game* at his next supper, the origin of that social evil of compromise with detectives in vogue ever since.

At the beginning of my remarks, I alluded to our former associates in the fourth department who have died since 1860, and who are worthy of honorable mention at this commemoration.

F. C. Lowell.—First, Mr. F. C. Lowell, a simple enumeration of the beauties of whose character would more than consume the whole time allotted to me by the Committee; but, even in the few minutes still left, I cannot resist the temptation to glance hurriedly at those which seem the most striking. Mr. Lowell was descended from a distinguished ancestry, and inherited an honorable name; still, as a high-toned man of honor and an exemplary Christian gentleman, he both sustained and embellished its reputation, though, owing to delicate health, reserved manners, and retired life, in the eye of the world he was less conspicuous than some of his kindred. At school, at college, in early manhood, and in later years, I knew him familiarly; and, in

all that time of lifelong intimacy, I can recall no character in all its attributes more noble, more beautiful, or more in harmony with all the practicable lessons of the Sermon on the Mount, than Mr. Lowell's. With intelligence and cultivation far above the average, he possessed great vigor and manliness of mind, beautifully blended with the most feminine gentleness and tenderness of feelings and heart. Decided and independent in his purposes and his opinions, he was indulgent and tolerant to the purposes and opinions of others. Warm in his sympathy and liberal in his charities, public and private, he was always guided by a calm judgment and a sound discretion. By a certain dignity and serenity in his bearing, a refined modesty and seeming unconsciousness of the benefits he was so constantly bestowing on others, he repressed every demonstration of thanks from those whose hearts were filled with gratitude for his favors. Truly, the poet might have said of him "that he did good by stealth and blushed to find it fame." I could, Mr. President, indefinitely prolong my catalogue of his characteristic virtues, and give you anecdotes to illustrate the character I try to describe; but a single one will suffice, not only to define, but also forcibly to illustrate, some of the qualities referred to. About twenty years ago the Glendon Rolling Mills failed. The superintendent, till then

enjoying the unbounded confidence of his employers, became a defaulter and absconded, leaving the company, till that time supposed to be not only solvent but prosperous, hopelessly bankrupt and worthless. Mr. Lowell, as a large shareholder and creditor of the company, lost heavily, and as a director, it was thought, was involved in unlimited liability for the full amount of the debt of the company to the extent of his whole fortune. On the day he discovered the fraud, and before he had time to recover from the shock, I saw him; and, in a manner perfectly calm and composed, he told me what had befallen him, not concealing his fears that he would be stripped of his whole fortune and utterly ruined. Shortly before the discovery, Mr. Lowell, not standing in need of the salary, resigned the lucrative office of Actuary of the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company, and Mr. Loring, appointed his successor, was, I believe, installed in the office on or near the very day of the disaster to the Glendon Mills. I was, of course, deeply distressed on hearing about it and its consequences to Mr. Lowell, and ventured to suggest that, under all the circumstances described, Mr. Lowell should resume his place at the head of the Life Office, as I was sure that Mr. Loring would gladly resign in his favor,

and that the directors would be pleased to reinstate him in the office, the duties of which he had so long and acceptably performed. To this suggestion, Mr. Lowell, with his characteristic manliness, decidedly and at once objected, saying that, at the head of so important an institution, having the custody of over ten millions of dollars belonging to women and children, no one should be charged with its management who, whether by his fault or misfortune, had shown himself, in the opinion of any one, incapable, as on the present occasion, of safely managing his own private affairs; and that, therefore, no wish of the present incumbent, or offer, or even solicitation of the directors, however urgent, could tempt him to resume the office.

Though my hasty proposition was unauthorized, it was nevertheless, I am sure, feasible, and would have been ratified by the Actuary and the Board; but the reply, unpremeditated, and springing spontaneously from his manly independence, noble disinterestedness, and chivalrous self-sacrifice, was genuine and immutable, impregnable to temptation, and proof against the urgent entreaties of his seeming necessities and his friends.

When we remember, Mr. President, that Mr. Lowell, in his whole life, never acted a part or studied effect; that what he thought he said, and

what he said he meant; that, with him, theory and practice, judgment and impulse, were always one and the same, — then, reading this simple story, by the light of our knowledge of his remarkable character, it offers a picture of moral heroism stamped with the seal of truth and reality; and, in these degenerate days of financial and political degradation, it is refreshing to inscribe on our centennial records such a striking example of private worth and sterling excellence for the study and imitation of our successors during the second century of this Club, — an example more worthy of emulation than the more brilliant exploits of the battle-field, or the more resplendent acts of magnanimity which, less deservedly, often attract the applause of public admiration.

Colonel THOMAS ASPINWALL, the gallant Colonel who, losing one arm in the war of 1812, offered his services, fifty years later, to his country in our Civil War. In 1853, after honorably and ably discharging the important duties of Consul at London for thirty-eight years, to the acceptance of the governments and citizens of both nations, Colonel Aspinwall was sacrificed to that atrocious rule of "spoils to the victors," so long and so shamefully practised by both political parties even in our foreign appointments, and dismissed. He returned home and spent the rest of his days

in Boston, where, respected and honored by all who knew him, he died in 1876. Every one remembers his erect, fine person, his handsome face, his manly bearing, his aristocratic air, the dignity and urbanity of his manners, the genuine cordiality and kindness of his heart, the intelligence and cultivation of his mind, his uncomplaining fortitude in struggling with disease and the infirmities of age, and at last his humble resignation and submission to the Divine Will.

THOMAS B. CURTIS.—Thomas B. Curtis was born in Boston in 1793, and died in Paris in 1871. By the few who can remember him as a boy, he must be remembered, no doubt, as a spirited, plucky, popular lad, and a favorable type of a Boston boy of that period. The same spirit of patriotism and chivalry which led Colonel Aspinwall, in 1812, to offer his arm to his country, and, in our Civil War, filled our army and navy with gallant officers and men, induced Mr. Curtis, still only a boy, to enter our navy at that brilliant and hazardous epoch of its history; and if he failed to lose life or limb in the cause, or to win laurels on the quarter-deck of a man-of-war, it was from lack of opportunity only. After the peace of 1815, Mr. Curtis, still a youth, educated himself for the mercantile profession in a manner at that time quite usual for young men of good

social position, by going to sea in the capacity of supercargo or captain; and it was by the discipline of responsibility, danger, and hardship thus incurred that the manly and fine qualities of his character were developed. Afterwards he established as a merchant such a reputation for ability and integrity as secured to him the confidential agency of the great banking house of Brown Bros. & Co., which he was many years after compelled to resign on account of his health, much to the regret of that firm. As a citizen, Mr. Curtis was active and influential in promoting the true interests of the city; and in social life eminently distinguished for his warm and genial nature, his ready wit, and delightful companionship. We may well rejoice, Mr. President, that in this Club, in which he was so great a favorite, we have at this time one who, inheriting his blood and his name, is also so fit a representative of his character.

J. T. Stevenson. — Mr. Stevenson, born in Boston in 1806, was a family connection and a business associate of Mr. Curtis, and prepared himself for the same calling in the same way, securing by the same career of probity, honor, and ability the respect and confidence of all, and rewarded to the last with important trusts, public and private, personal, corporate, and charitable,

sometimes of emolument, but oftener gratuitous and benevolent. Mr. Stevenson was a leader in politics when a politician was more often a statesman than of late years. By a strong will and a persuasive eloquence in the councils of the State and on the platform, he acquired a commanding influence in the Whig party, and might have gone to Congress when the honor of a seat in the House of Representatives was a more general object of ambition with suitable candidates than during the last few years. His mother wit and genial humor made his companionship, before his domestic sorrows, cheering and charming in the social or convivial circle; and his tender devotion to his family at home, so distinctly legible in his face and manner since the loss of his children, needs no testimony here.

That these four prominent members of this Club all belonged to some of our most prominent Boston families of a century ago; were themselves among the most distinguished members of the society of King's Chapel of the last half century; and received in the last six years each a beautiful, just, and touching tribute from the eloquent pen of a cherished brother of this Society, and pastor of that Church, — is worthy of record as a singular coincidence, and as a typical illustration of the composition of the Club.

Though, Mr. President, I have dwelt so much more at length upon these associates than I intended, and already in excess of my time, because their long membership and regular attendance at our meetings especially identified them with the Club, I must, by your indulgence, add still a few words about others whose membership was much shorter and whose attendance was much more rare.

G. H. Shaw. — I refer, first, to Mr. G. H. Shaw, also born in Boston, in 1819, of an old, prominent Boston family, who died abroad in 1867, whither he had gone for his health. Born to prosperity and fortune, having nothing to contend with early *but* prosperity, and later in life nothing to struggle with but ill health; living through a period of history in this country of comparative quiet till the war, when he was both active and generous for the public good; belonging to a country where unsought-for promotion is slow, and offices of honor more frequently the reward of ambitious self-seeking than of unobtrusive merit, — of course his life, however rich in social and domestic beauties, was uneventful, and affords little material for an occasion like this, except by implication. But, Mr. President, as Mr. Shaw shunned rather than courted popular notoriety, except where it was incident to

the promotion of the public interest, I am at a loss adequately to express my impression of his character without seeming to intrude upon that modest seclusion which he preserved, or to trespass upon the sanctity of those home influences and associations which so signally adorned and added such dignity and refinement to his name and his history. When, however, sir, I remember the deep sorrow occasioned in society and this community on the announcement of his death; and recall the exceptional graces of his person, manners, and character, his social influence and consideration in this city, his enviable antecedents, surroundings, and prospects; and picture to myself the commanding position which, with fortune and family, the last ten years of unprecedented activity and progress in social improvement in Boston and its vicinity would have conferred upon Mr. Shaw, if his life and health could have been spared till now, — I realize, though I cannot describe, the *continuous* loss sustained during that time by his death in the midst of his usefulness and opportunities, and in the prime of his life.

Why one having so much to live for, with such will and power to do good — at once such a recipient and dispenser of enjoyment — should be taken away so early by the mysterious decree of a Divine Providence, is a presumptuous in-

quiry, to be answered only by those unfailing words of comfort in the Lord's Prayer.

TURNER SARGENT. — One more son of Boston, of good old Boston stock, and my roll is completed. The name and family of Sargent are among the most vivid and freshest of my early recollections of Franklin Street, which, with its neighborhood, was esteemed by those who lived there as the centre of fashion; and there Mr. Turner Sargent was born in 1813. That he inherited many of the best elements of the New England character, is true, but equally true that an exceptional delicacy of taste, cultivated by foreign travel and studies, so modified that character in some respects as to make him less a type than an improved variety of a Boston gentleman. That, with a native tendency to think and act for himself, he should, with or without foreign travel, become in time a little cosmopolitan, and amuse himself with those accomplishments and various employments which the world calls idle; and, as Professor Lowell wittily says of another, "That he should early in life devote himself to the somewhat arduous profession of gentleman, in a country where we have business in the blood, and where leisure is looked upon as the larceny of time which belongs

to other people," is both natural and creditable to him; and, if to —

"Act well one's part, therein the honor lies, —"

his whole life bears testimony to the wisdom of his selection; for no one was more the gentleman than he. His absence abroad did not weaken his attachment to home. His acquaintance with foreign countries, their customs and institutions, only confirmed his preferences in general for his own. Alive to the merits of both, he was not blind to the defects of either. With too good taste to travel with the spread eagle, he had too much self-respect ever to lower the standard of American character by depreciatory comparisons or remarks. With a keen sense of the ridiculous, however, a ready wit, and a happy faculty of seasoning his stories and conversation with a little spice of drollery and innocent satire, he very likely would occasionally amuse himself and friends by laughing at both Old and New England superstitions and notions. Had he *sat under* Jonathan Edwards, he perhaps would have thought his unpleasant doctrine, now faded out, about our future discomforts, a little exaggerated. He might even have dared to qualify that more modern and growing impression that the Rock of Plymouth is the corner-stone of the only great structure of civil and religious liberty in the uni-

verse. Nothing but loyalty to the "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table" could have confirmed his faith in Boston as the hub of the solar system. And so I might multiply, *ad infinitum*, illustrations of that sound common sense and independence of opinion which, with a sprinkling of playful pungency, made him so charming a companion in domestic and social life, and so welcome in every social circle.

Mr. F. B. CROWNINSHIELD. — Only a few hours before the curtain was to fall on the century which we are here to commemorate, another member was summoned from the stage; and the Roll I thought completed, I reopen, in order to add to it one more honored name. Mr. F. B. Crowninshield died yesterday; and, though no epitaph, obituary, or tablet is necessary to rescue his name or memory from oblivion in this Club or this community, we are proud to couple it with the proceedings of this day.

Mr. Crowninshield was born in Salem, in 1810, was graduated in 1829, at Harvard, practised law in Boston, was member of the Constitutional Convention of Massachusetts in 1853, Speaker of the House of Representatives in this State, delegate to the Peace Conference at Washington in 1860, Fellow of Harvard College, and distinguished as an influential man of business

and citizen in this city, where he has so legibly and indelibly written his own name on the register of the courts, on the journals of the Legislature and Convention of this Commonwealth, on the proceedings of the Peace Conference, the records of the College, and the history of our domestic industries in New England, that no words of encomium from me or others could deepen the impression left by his eloquence and his acts. Affectionate and faithful in his domestic and friendly relations, he was a wise counsellor, a kind friend, and pleasant companion.

Thus, Mr. President, I have endeavored to throw off a few hasty sketches of those gentlemen who belonged to the fourth department, and have died since I joined this Club, seventeen years ago; and, in order to be brief, have no doubt omitted much that might have been interesting to many. If, in my sketch of their lives, or in the delineation of their characters, there may seem to be too much family resemblance, it arises unavoidably from the composition of the Club itself. A social club, largely composed of members born on the same spot, educated in the same way, selected by each other because of kindred sympathies, similar tastes and occupations, would not be likely to afford material

for any striking variety in short notices like these. It is, I believe, the oldest social club in our country, and in the one hundred years has counted over one hundred members, of whom more than three-quarters have long since been gathered to their fathers, — many eminent in public, more distinguished in the private walks of life, but all, without exception, of at least unimpeachable respectability. A century of unexampled activity and change, national and social, with intermittent peace and war, prosperity and adversity, wealth and poverty, so dangerous to individual character in a commercial community, following each other in rapid succession, with all their concomitant perils, has completed its round, inscribing the names of some of our associates on the roll of honor and fame, and leaving no stain upon a single name.

All sleep in honored graves, with memories hallowed by the respect and affection of those who knew and survived them. But, sir, the value of the past is its influence on the future; and the reminiscences of this commemoration are precious only in the inspiration and example offered to those who may follow. Let us hope that the prospering breezes of the first may favor us on our second voyage; that the same forbearance and considerate courtesy, like a pilot at the helm, may again guide our little craft over

the shoals and amidst the rocks of party spirit and personal animosities, and bring her once more safely into port, sound, seaworthy, and ready to start again, with the name on her prow undimmed, and the motto, "Esto Perpetua," floating on her flag, as an invocation from her crew to be greeted by the future cheers of generations to follow.

Mr. GEORGE B. EMERSON was then called upon, and said: —

Our secretary tells me that I am expected to occupy a few minutes with talking upon some subject, and I know I cannot say any thing that will be likely to be more agreeable or more fitting than a few words upon some of the distinguished members of the Club when I first joined it.

My name had been proposed by a friend, but a difficulty presented itself. The Club then consisted of gentlemen from the four professions, — Lawyers, Theologians, Physicians, and Merchants. To which of these could I belong, who had never been any thing but a teacher? "Let him be," said Judge DAVIS, "a merchant — a merchant of Light." As a merchant I was accordingly admitted.

I know no subject so agreeable as the character of my noble and distinguished friend, Judge Davis. He was fitted for college by very excel-

lent teachers, and in college was much distinguished in every department, — in the languages, in mathematics, and in philosophy. His part at leaving college was a poem on Commencement, which was received with great applause.

For some time, he was a teacher, but soon devoted himself with great distinction to the Law. He was always a great reader, and soon became thoroughly acquainted with every thing then considered worth knowing. He was chosen by the people of Plymouth, where he settled immediately after his marriage, as their delegate to the State Convention, on the question of adopting the Federal Constitution; and was, for years, representative in the legislature, and afterwards Senator for Plymouth County. In 1795, he was appointed by Washington Comptroller of the Treasury of the United States. George Cabot pronounced him a most valuable acquisition to the government, as possessing, in an eminent degree, every essential qualification for the office.

On his resigning this office, Washington appointed him United States Attorney for the district of Massachusetts, in place of Christopher Gore, who had resigned. On entering upon this office, he removed to Boston, where he spent the remainder of his life.

In 1801, President Adams appointed him Judge of the District Court of the United States for the

District of Massachusetts, in which office he remained more than forty years, with the highest honor to himself and the entire approbation of all. Mr. Justice Story dedicated to him one of his important works.

Whilst comparatively young in this office, he became a member of this Club, and continued in it to the end of his active life, always most agreeable and ready to converse with every one of us in the most cordial and natural manner. No subject could come up, with which he was not perfectly familiar. He was born in 1761 and died at the age of more than eighty-six.

There are in the Athenæum very many lectures by Judge Davis, some of them very eloquent, all of them full of good sense and giving evidence of most extensive reading and careful observation.

Another of the very remarkable members of the Club was Hon. James Savage, a noble gentleman, most thoroughly acquainted with every thing in Massachusetts history, and a great reader and thinker upon almost every subject.

He was, till the very end of his life, extremely punctual. When he parted with his friends to go on a voyage to Europe, he told them that he meant to be at home on a certain day. On that very day, just in season for dinner, he came into his house in Temple Place.

His historical works give evidence of almost faultless accuracy, and an extent of knowledge possessed by no one else. In conversation he was full of oddities, but always kind and most agreeable. There was no one of my dearest friends whose loss I more heartily deplored.

Another member of the Club most distinguished for his genius, ability, and amiable qualities was FRANCIS C. GRAY. He was a great lover of natural history, and had made a large and beautiful collection of shells, which was wholly lost by fire. I asked him whether he did not regret the loss. "Not very much," said he: "they gave a good deal of trouble and expenditure of time, and I remember perfectly each one of them." He had also a great love of plants, because familiarly acquainted with all in this part of the country, and never forgot one.

In conversation he was most agreeable, full of good sense and of wit, and thoroughly acquainted with what was daily passing and had taken place. At my request he gave a learned and admirable lecture, introductory to a course of natural history.

Very unlike all these, and not so distinguished for attainments in any special department, was the Rev. Dr. PARKMAN. He was a most agreeable gentleman, had been for some years a traveller in Europe, and remembered all the

pleasant persons he had seen. He was ready-witted, and had a thousand stories, which it gave him pleasure to tell, and which always made a corner of the Club cheerful.

Hon. C. F. Adams, being called upon by the Chair, said: —

That he had been requested by the Committee to present such notices of the Club and its meetings, &c., as he might find in his father's Diary, and he therefore submitted the following not very full notices, and valuable chiefly as a record of meetings.

From J. Q. Adams's Diary.

1803.	12 Jan.	Club at Mr. Emerson's.
	23 Feb.	Club at Mr. John Welles's.
	2 Mar.	Club at Mr. J. Q. Adams's. Mr. Pickman came.
	13 Apr.	Club at Mr. Emerson's.
	18 May.	Club at Dr. Warren's. We were galvanized.
	8 June.	Club at Judge Davis's. Dr. Prince, of Salem, there.
	20 July.	Club at Dr. Kirkland's.
	3 Aug.	Club at Dr. Spooner's.
	10 Aug.	Club at Dr. Warren's.
	17 Aug.	Club at Mr. Welles's.

1803.	24 Aug.	Club at J. Q. Adams's. Mr. Coffin, Pres. of a new college in Tennessee, and Mr. Nichols of Philadelphia, here.
	7 Sept.	Club at Mr. Amory's.
	14 Sept.	Club at Judge Dawes's, instead of Judge Davis's, he being at Salem.
	21 Sept.	Club at Dr. Dexter's.
1806.	21 May.	Club at Dr. Howard's.
1807.	15 Apr.	Club at Judge Dawes's.
	22 Apr.	Club at Dr. Dexter's.
	6 May.	Club at Mr. Emerson's.
	13 May.	Club at Mr. E. Gray's.
	20 May.	Club at Dr. Howard's.
	24 June.	Could not find the Club. Saw Judge Dawes, and went to Dr. Warren's and Mr. Cobb's.
	1 July.	Club at J. Q. Adams's. Every member save Dr. Howard attended. They are now Mr. S. Cobb, Judge Davis, Dr. Dexter, Dr. Eliot, Mr. Emerson, Mr. Edward Gray, Dr. Howard, Dr. Kirkland, Mr. Smith, Dr. Spooner, Mr. Tyng and Dr. Warren, Judge Dawes—14 in all.
	8 July.	Club at Mr. Cobb's.
	15 July.	Club at Judge Davis's. Mr. Niles of Vt., Judge Sedgwick, and Mr. Wendall Davis were there.
	5 Aug.	Club at Dr. Eliot's.
	19 Aug.	Club at Mr. Edward Gray's.
	9 Sept.	Club at Dr. Kirkland's.
	16 Sept.	Club at Mr. W. Smith's.

1807. 23 Sept. Club at Dr. Warren's. Dr. Spooner and Mr. Tyng being out of town. Mr. Buckminster was there.

30 Sept. Club at J. Q. Adams's. Mr. Silliman of New Haven, and Colonel Gibbs of Newport, came with Judge Davis.

7 Oct. Club at Mr. Cobb's. Mr. Kendall there, and has spent some time at Dighton, where he has taken an exact painting of the famous rock, bearing an inscription which he showed us last evening.

1808. 26 Aug. Club at Dr. Eliot's, where were Dr. Mason of New York, Mr. Reed my old college tutor, and Mr. Andrews of Newburyport.

16 Sept. Club at Mr. Gray's. I took Mr. Verplanck with me.

12 Oct. Club at Dr. Spooner's. Sir Isaac Coffin, and Mr. Wilson of Philadelphia, were there.

1809. 21 June. Club this evening at Judge Dawes's, in his late father's house, being the same day and place where, thirty-two years ago, the first meeting of the Club was held. Judge Dawes himself, and Dr. Eliot, were the only two members now present who had then attended. It was near a full meeting, and Dr. Kirkland introduced a gentleman from Albany by the name of Breese.

12 July. Club at Mr. Emerson's.

1809. 19 July. Club at Mr. E. Gray's.
26 July. Evening at Club.
2 Aug. Club at Dr. Kirkland's.

On Aug. 5 Mr. Adams sailed for Europe.

Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP was then called on for the closing Address, and he replied as follows: —

I have been hoping, Mr. Secretary, sincerely hoping, that I might be excused altogether this evening; and now, that I have been so kindly — I had almost said so cruelly — called on, I must be pardoned if all that I attempt to say shall take the form of an apology, rather than of an address.

I left New York only an hour before noon *to-day*, rather than miss this meeting; and I could not help thinking as I came along, that if the nine men — our sacred Nine — who founded this Club just a hundred years ago, could have had it predicted to them, that two of their successors, — for my friend Mr. Mason was with me — should come all the way from New York to Boston, in seven hours, to celebrate their Centennial, they would, one and all, have pronounced it as incredible and fabulous as any thing in the Arabian Nights. And I am not quite sure, sir, that our successors, a hundred years hence, will have seen any thing in this line more remarkable. There must be a practical limit to the speed of human locomotion, and I

sometimes doubt if it has not been almost reached.

Such a journey, however, has not been without fatigue, and absent as I have been from home for nearly a month past, and having returned thus rapidly only two hours ago, I am afraid I shall find it impossible to collect my scattered and jaded thoughts, and to deal, as I could wish to deal, with the only topics befitting this occasion.

But, indeed, sir, were it otherwise with me, I should hardly know how to add any thing worth adding to what has been already so impressively said by yourself, and by the other gentlemen who have followed you.

And then, too, Mr. Secretary, all the associations, all the traditions, all the usages, of this Club seem to rise up in judgment before me at this moment, and to protest against my attempting any thing like a formal speech. Why, sir, the great peculiarity and the great charm of our meetings, from first to last, has been their purely unceremonious and unconventional character. We have come together, from week to week, always and only, to exchange words and thoughts and feelings in the most social and conversational way — "dextræ jungere dextram, ac veras audire et reddere voces." In our whole hundred years, there has hardly been such a thing as a formal address heard at our meetings until to-night;

and one almost instinctively shrinks from celebrating our Centennial Anniversary by a direct defiance and violation of a custom, which has held us together in unity and harmony so long. My own tongue, certainly, would cleave to the roof of my mouth, were I to attempt — malice aforethought — any thing rhetorical to-night. I fear it is beginning to do so already.

And yet, my friends, I should in vain endeavor to repress some acknowledgment, — feeble and faltering though it may prove to be, — of the satisfactions and enjoyments which I have derived, in common with you all, from my relations to this Club.

In looking back, indeed, over the forty years since I was elected a member of it, I find that I have been a terrible truant, and that long, long gaps have occurred in my attendance at its meetings. Nearly twelve years of public service at Washington, and repeated visits to Europe, have made a large deduction from my enjoyment of the opportunities and privileges which belong to our membership. Yet enough, and more than enough, has been left for the most grateful remembrance. The mere consciousness that once in every week, on a stated night, we were privileged to go, if we were in the way of going, to the house of a friend, to meet familiar faces, and to learn the latest word in all the departments of

law or medicine, of theology or science, of commerce or politics, from the chosen representatives of every profession and calling, has been, I venture to say, for all of us, — as I know it has been for myself, — a source of gratification and pleasure not easily exaggerated, and one quite apart from the enjoyments of the meetings themselves.

But the meetings themselves, I need not say, have never been wanting in materials of entertainment, of almost every variety. I have more than once wished, since we began to contemplate this Centennial commemoration, that there could have been kept some continuous record of these weekly meetings. What a story it would have told of men and of events! Even now, it may not be too late to gather up the reminiscences and traditions of our meetings, and to make them into a little book of remembrance, a little volume of "Memorabilia of the Wednesday Club," with sketches and photographs, perhaps, of persons and places. There may be diaries from which facts may be gleaned, like the diary of our illustrious member John Quincy Adams, from which we have just heard. A group of this very Centennial gathering would be a fit frontispiece for such a volume.

From such a record, the distinguished guests we have so often had with us could not be omitted. I recall the occasional presence at my

own house, or at others' houses, not merely of such men as Webster and Everett, and good Bishops Fitzpatrick and Eastburn, and Governor Clifford and Governor Washburn, and Agassiz, of our own State and neighborhood; but of Lyell and Thackeray, of William C. Rives and Thomas H. Benton, of George Peabody and Dr. Barnas Sears. I am particular in recalling this last name, because I cannot but remember that the accident — I should rather say the Providence — of Dr. Sears's presence at one of our meetings determined the whole direction and success of the Peabody Trust for Southern Education. It was at this Club, ten or eleven years ago, that I first communicated to him the great endowment of Mr. Peabody, and took the first step towards securing his inestimable advice and counsel in its administration.

And from that little volume of Memorabilia, as made up by our excellent Secretary, who alone could do it justice, he would not willingly omit, I am sure, an account of some of our anomalous and exceptional meetings: — That, for example, at the Café de Paris, in 1868, when six or seven of our number, of whom he and I were two, had so humorous and so charming a reunion in a foreign land. And I should be sorry to have him forget a meeting at Brookline, too, when the Club did me the favor and honor to come out to my subur-

ban villa, where I was passing a winter; — their first and only meeting in the country, I believe, and the only one at which the visible presence of ladies was welcomed at our repast.

Of the men with whom we have been associated as members, not a few have been already named with peculiar interest and affection, — Judge Davis, James Savage, Ephraim Peabody and Charles Mason, the Curtises, Dr. Homans and Dr. Hayward. But I confess I have no stronger or more vivid personal association to-night, than with Francis C. Gray, — so genial, so accomplished, so quick-witted, with such a marvellous memory, with such an exhaustless fund of information and anecdote. The Club has had no more devoted member, certainly, in my day, nor any one more worthy of respectful and affectionate remembrance on this occasion.

But I dare not trespass longer on the closing hours of our festival, lest I should be held responsible for the ice-cream being melted, or for the stewed oysters being cold. Let me only remind you how striking a contrast our Century Club — for so it must henceforth be called — presents to that which I have just visited in New York, with its five or six hundred members and all its sumptuous apartments and appointments!

That Club, which owed its name, I believe, to the original number of its members, is a com-

paratively modern creation of the wealth and culture of the great Commercial Metropolis of our country. No one who has experienced the charm of its hospitality so recently as I have done, can fail to recognize it as a grand institution, worthy of the noble city it adorns, and fitly presided over, at one time by the late genial Gulian C. Verplanck, and now by the veteran poet, William C. Bryant. But what a contrast it presents to that on which Time, rather than any caprice or choice of our own, is now casting the same or a similar title!

Founded in the darkest hours of our revolutionary struggle, with only nine members at the outset, and hardly more than three times nine now, our little Club has gone along quietly and prosperously for a hundred years. Quietly and prosperously, I trust, it will not fall short of a second century, and we all hope and predict that it may live a thousand years. It is peculiarly a Home Club, not dependent on costly buildings or onerous assessments, and without any popular element which could be affected by accidental circumstances. It will not be permitted to die out, and we may confidently send down our greetings and good wishes — as we hereby all do — to those who shall celebrate its successive Centennials, in a far, far, remote futurity, with our heartiest hopes and prayers,

that they may be in the enjoyment of all, and more than all, the social and political advantages in which we now rejoice, and that they may remember our names as kindly and as proudly, as we, this night, recall those of George Richards Minot, and John Eliot, and John Quincy Adams, and John Thornton Kirkland, and the rest, — whom we look back upon so reverently as our forerunners and founders!

At the conclusion of Mr. Winthrop's address, it was determined by unanimous vote, that hereafter the style and title of the Club should be "The Wednesday Evening Century Club;" and also that the Committee, who had made the arrangements for this centennial celebration, should be charged with the further duty of superintending the publication, in an appropriate form, of all the addresses that had just been delivered, and of all the preliminary action connected with the celebration of the centennial anniversary.

The Club then adjourned to Mr. Thayer's spacious dining-room, where it was soon and most agreeably ascertained that the "ice cream had not melted, nor the oysters grown cold," though it was a full hour beyond our usual time for partaking of these refreshments.

It was, and still is, a matter of deep regret that the lateness of the hour, owing to the time occupied by the preceding addresses, made it impossible for us to hear something as we expected, after the adjournment to the supper-room, from other members of the Club, and from some of the invited guests who honored us with their presence. But no one could be prevailed upon to make, and none seemed disposed to listen to, any more general addresses to the Club: and, after a pleasant hour of social converse, the company separated unceremoniously, every one who had been present

feeling that it had been a goodly gathering, and the members of the Club cherishing the conviction that they had been loyal to their ancestry, had done justice to the memories of the founders and fathers of their association, and had launched the Club upon its second century under auspices whose quickening influences would bear it onward to the close of that century, making it in the future, as in the past, an honorable and useful element in the social life of Boston.

In behalf of the Committee of arrangements, charged with the superintendence of the publication in an appropriate form of all the proceedings connected with the centennial celebration of the Club, this volume is herewith submitted, in the humble hope that it may be favorably received as a satisfactory discharge of an important trust.

S. K. Lothrop,

Chairman of the Committee and Secretary of the Club.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

PRIOR to the preceding account of its Centennial Celebration, the WEDNESDAY EVENING CLUB has never printed or published any thing even for the use of its members, except on three occasions, which are indicated in the following "Sketch of the Wednesday Evening Club, its Rules and Members," prepared by the Secretary under order of the Club, and printed in 1873. It is here reprinted, with unimportant omissions, for the use of the present members, several of whom have joined us since it was originally printed, and also that it may go down to those who come after us in connection with the account of our Centennial Commemoration. One or two other things are added, which the Committee thought it would be wise to preserve in the same connection.

SKETCH.

THE WEDNESDAY EVENING CLUB — a social gathering, simple and informal, of a few gentlemen at each other's houses on Wednesday evening — has no records of its early years. It had been in existence nearly three-quarters of a century before it had any

written rules, or any thing but traditionary customs and usages were known to its members. Written rules, and an approximation to any thing like records, date back only twenty-four years. For more than three-quarters of a century, it was the custom of the Club to meet every Wednesday evening throughout the year. After the introduction of railroads, and the facilities which they afforded for increased travel, and the spending of the summer in the country, the custom of a brief suspension of the meetings in July and August was sanctioned by a sort of general and informal consent. For several years, however, the suspension continued to be an uncertain and varying matter. The first written rule and formal vote, on this and one or two other subjects, was adopted in the spring of 1849, when it was ordered thus: —

I. The Club will meet from the third Wednesday in October to the third Wednesday in June inclusive.

II. A Committee, appointed annually, shall arrange the meetings in continuous alphabetical order, as nearly as convenient, and shall send a copy of the list to every one before the fifth of October.

III. Notice of each meeting shall be given to every member by the person receiving on the same or preceding day. No notice, no Club.

IV. Any person not wishing to receive on his day may exchange with another, whose turn he shall take.

V. These rules shall be prefixed to each annual list.

[These rules in a printed form were prefixed to each annual list, though for many years subsequent to Mr. GRAY'S death the list itself was written out by the Secretary.]

This programme was adopted on the suggestion of the late Hon. FRANCIS C. GRAY, who for twenty-six years was one of the ornaments of the Club; enlivening its meetings by his wit and wisdom, his rich and varied learning, and cherishing always a lively interest in its prosperity. Mr. GRAY, in conjunction with the late CHARLES P. CURTIS, Esq., — another honored member, whose interest in the Club, and fidelity to it, are gratefully remembered by all those who had the happiness of being associated with him in it, — became the Committee indicated by the second rule; Mr. GRAY acting as Secretary, preparing and sending to the members the annual list of the meetings, up to the time of his death in 1856, when this duty devolved upon the present Secretary. Up to this period, there were no records, no written rules, and only floating lists of those who had been or were members. Mr. GRAY collected and recorded the names of members from the beginning, and all the scattered and traditionary facts — few in number — that could be ascertained.

From this record we learn that, as originally instituted in 1778 (as was then supposed), the Club consisted of nine members, — three from each of the professions of Law, Medicine, and Divinity. The first enlargement was the addition of three Merchants. Judging from the first names on the list of Merchant-members, this enlargement must have been made about seventy years ago, though the precise time cannot be accurately determined.

Forty-two years ago, another enlargement was made by the election of two or three gentlemen, whose

occupation or position in society did not bring them under either of the four distinct classes of Merchants, Lawyers, Physicians, Clergymen. As the chief distinction of the gentlemen thus elected, and their employments, so far as they had any, were literary, the late Judge DAVIS — for many years the Nestor of the Club, an object of the most affectionate reverence and regard to all the members — advocated their election, and proposed that one of them especially, Mr. GEORGE B. EMERSON, who was directly engaged in the inculcation and diffusion of knowledge, should come in as "a Merchant of light." In the common parlance of the Club, however, this class of our members has been designated by the not inappropriate appellation of "Gentlemen at large." In 1836, a further enlargement of the Club was made by adding one to each of the four classes; so that it should consist of twenty members, — four from each of the professions, four Merchants, and four Gentlemen at large.

There has never been a strict adherence to this rule, however, save in regard to the three professions, so called. The Club has never had at the same time more than four Clerical members, or more than four practising Physicians or Lawyers; but, during the greater part of the time for the last thirty-five years, it has had more than twenty members. It had twenty-three members in 1859, when a Committee, consisting of Messrs. R. C. WINTHROP, JOSEPH COOLIDGE, and the SECRETARY, was appointed to consider the expediency of enlarging the number of members, and to report on that and all matters appertaining to the

interests of the Club. This Committee, in their report submitted on the 25th of February, 1857, say: —

"The question of a further enlargement is one of difficulty and delicacy, which your Committee have fully considered. We can so easily name a number of distinguished or agreeable gentlemen whom it would be pleasant to have associated with us, that there is a strong temptation to enlarge our number. It is desirable also that the Club should be so large that, allowing for other engagements, we may always rely upon a goodly number — fifteen or eighteen — being present at every meeting. It would be a great mistake, on the other hand, to make the Club unwieldy from its size; and a great misfortune to have it so large as to lose its harmony of spirit and character, and the feeling of intimate acquaintance and strong personal regard now produced by its limited number. It would be a misfortune also to have it so large as that any member might feel that he would not be missed in the crowd, and thus lose something of the motive, both of impulse and obligation, that now produces a pretty regular attendance. Your Committee have endeavored to give their due weight to all these considerations.

"They thought, at one time, of proposing a plan of twenty-five immediate members, and ten honorary members, to be chosen from different parts of New England; the latter members to have a programme of the meetings of the Club sent them in October, — the same as to the immediate members, — and to feel at liberty, whenever they were in the city, to attend the

meetings, without any special invitation from the host or any other member. This plan of honorary memberships, your Committee supposed, would work thus: A gentleman of New Bedford or Providence or Worcester or Springfield, &c., being an honorary member, and having to come to Boston for a day and a night in the course of the week, would say to himself, 'I will go on Wednesday, rather than Tuesday or Thursday; and so avail myself of my privilege, and be at Wednesday Evening Club;' — and thus we should always have two or three agreeable gentlemen present from different parts of the Commonwealth or of New England.

"Your Committee, on reflection, abandoned this plan, from a feeling that the distinction might become invidious; and the plan, in its working, serve to prevent, rather than draw, the attendance of strangers. For instance, suppose Mr. C. to be an honorary member from New Bedford. Mr. E., or some other gentleman from New Bedford, being in the city, and specially invited by the host or some other member to attend the Club, might decline from a feeling that his position would be awkward and unpleasant, and also from a natural feeling that would lead him to say to himself, 'Why should Mr. C., living at New Bedford, be an honorary member any more than myself?' Your Committee came to the conclusion, therefore, that this matter, on the whole, stood best where the present custom places it. This brings enough of foreign element to our meetings. Rarely is there a stranger in the city from any part of New England or

the world, whom we should be glad to meet, who does not receive an invitation, and is not introduced through some member of the Club.

"Having abandoned the idea of honorary members, your Committee thought of proposing that the limit of the Club should be *thirty* members. There are two prominent considerations in favor of this limit: First, The fact that, according to our present rule, we shall have commonly thirty meetings in the year; some years there would be thirty-one, and some years twenty-nine meetings, — commonly thirty meetings; and thirty members would bring the Club once each year to each member. Secondly, An addition of six or seven members would enable us to bring in two or three gentlemen in the meridian of life, whom we should be glad to have associated with us, and also to do what perhaps is more necessary, — increase the youthful element in the Club, by the election of three or four gentlemen who are by a score of years and more, the juniors of all the present members.

"It is to be feared, however, that such an enlargement would essentially alter the character of the Club. It would tend to destroy the social, friendly, easy, familiar intercourse which we have had for so many years; the remembrance of which is so pleasant and grateful to all the old members, and will become so, we trust, to those who have recently joined us. It may be doubted whether twenty-five is not the utmost limit to which it would be wise to extend our members at present. After mature deliberation, your Committee have come to the conclusion that a larger

increase would be inexpedient; and therefore, in the rule upon this point which they submit, they have adopted twenty-five as the limit of the Club."

In their report, this Committee of 1857 say further: "In some points, customs prevail to which it would be well to give the authority of rule to sustain them; and in others customs prevail which your Committee think it would be wise to change to a conformity with good rules to be now adopted.

"For instance, it has been customary for any member to bring with him to our meetings any stranger in the city, or friend from abroad, whom he might wish to introduce to the Club, and for the host to invite not only strangers, but one or two friends resident in the city, if disposed so to do. The custom is a good one; but there should be a rule authorizing it, as it is within the experience of some of us that very agreeable gentlemen, residents of the city, when invited by the host to be present, have sometimes hesitated or declined, from the fear or feeling that such invitations, being expressions of individual regard, were exceptional, and without the authority of custom or rule to sustain them. Your Committee have therefore introduced a rule upon this point.

"Again: the custom which prevails in regard to the filling of vacancies or the election of members, in view of the present or the proposed size of the Club, seems, in the judgment of your Committee, to require some modification. According to this custom, the nomination of a candidate proceeds from the members of the profession or department of the Club

to which an election is to be made, and the election follows forthwith by a hand-vote. It is often made also when strangers are present, and without any opportunity for discussion or consideration on the part of those to whom perhaps the nomination may be unexpected. Were such opportunity offered, no opposition to the nomination would probably be expressed; because, under such circumstances, gentlemen might naturally be unwilling to say that the candidate was not agreeable to them, or to say why he was not. Nor is it desirable that we should have an open discussion of character in this way; but it is desirable that every member should have an opportunity of privately and quietly expressing his dissent, if it be strong; and that harmony, good-fellowship, and kind feeling should be preserved between all the members.

"The custom under consideration originated when the Club was small, and has come down to us by usage. On the whole, it has worked well. It would be difficult, perhaps, to find a company of gentlemen, equal in number, where that variety of character which is agreeable, and that harmony which is essential to pleasant intercourse, are more happily combined than in the members of the Wednesday Evening Club. But though no great evil has arisen from the present custom, and vacancies do not often occur, your Committee think that there should be a fixed rule upon this subject; and that this rule, while it provides for nominations by the members of the section to which the election is to be made, or by a Special Committee appointed for the purpose, should also give oppor-

tunity for the private expression of individual opinion. Accordingly, they submit a rule to this effect.

"The traditions of the fathers tell us that graduation at Harvard College was originally a condition of membership of the Club; and this condition was once considered as immutable as the laws of the Medes and Persians.[1] But probably this condition was originally intended to intimate simply that the Club should be composed of persons of education and generous culture; and as Harvard College was at that time the chief, almost the only, source of this culture to the people of this community, the condition took this form. But this relation between Harvard College and our community no longer exists. Our city has become more metropolitan, the point where a large portion of the talent and culture of New England concentrates. Four or five times within the last twenty years, this traditionary condition has been disregarded, to the gratification of every member of the Club. Through the growth of our city, there may be frequent induce-

[1] As one of the original members, Rev. Mr. GREENOUGH was a graduate of Yale, and as Rev. Dr. HOLLY, who was a member nearly seventy years ago, was also a graduate of Yale, it is difficult to understand where this "tradition" came from or how it originated. Nevertheless there unquestionably was such a tradition in the Club. The report of this Committee is a testimony to it. Some of the older members of the Club will remember that as late as 1846, when the Rev. EPHRAIM PEABODY — a graduate of Bowdoin — was nominated and elected, an express vote was passed, though there is no record of it, setting aside or suspending the traditional rule in regard to graduation at Harvard; and it was said at the time, that the same thing was done when the late THOMAS B. CURTIS was elected in 1830. Fortunately, the tradition is now annulled by express rule; and, in a small way, the matter is an illustration of the uncertain authority of tradition.

ments to disregard it in future. If, in the ranks of professional distinction and literary culture, the sons of Harvard College cannot hold their own in this community, it is not desirable that they should hold it in this Club by an exclusive condition. If they hold it in the one, they will necessarily, so far as it is desirable they should, hold it in the other. Your Committee therefore think that this traditionary condition, which has several times been wisely disregarded, should be suffered to sink into oblivion, — should, in fact, be considered as extinct. They therefore do not incorporate it into any rule which they submit."

The rules reported by this Committee and adopted by the Club, March 11, 1857, remained the law of the Club for fourteen years, save that in one or two instances they were suspended in regard to the election of members.

In the spring of 1872, there being several vacancies in the Clerical, Legal, and Medical departments of the Club, the question of a further enlargement was again agitated, and a Committee appointed to consider and report upon the subject, and to nominate candidates if they recommended an increase of members. In December of that year, this Committee, consisting of Messrs. Amory, Coolidge, J. A. Lowell, Mason, Mifflin, Quincy, and the Secretary, submitted a report, in which they recommended, —

I. That the Club be enlarged to thirty members.

II. That the meetings begin later in the autumn and close earlier in the spring, thus reducing the number of meetings to the number of members, so that commonly the

duty and pleasure of receiving the Club would come but once a year to each.

III. That in filling existing vacancies and in electing new members, the idea on which the Club was originally instituted, — a representative Club, bringing together a certain number from the professional and other walks of life, — be affirmed and adhered to.

IV. That, in the election of members, — the candidates being nominated by the section to which they are to be received, or by a special committee, — the election shall be held by written ballots, "yea" or "nay"; and unless there be more than two "nays" cast against him, the candidate shall be declared elected.

V. That in other respects the rules of the Club remain as established.

These recommendations were approved and adopted by the Club, and subsequently seven gentlemen, nominated by the Committee for different departments of the Club, were unanimously elected.

The rules of the Club as thus revised and established are as follows: —

I. The Wednesday Evening Club shall consist of thirty members, of whom there shall be not less than four from each of the professions, — Clerical, Legal, and Medical; and not less than four connected with Mercantile or Manufacturing interests. The others may be elected indiscriminately from any of the walks of Literature, Science, Art, or good citizenship; or from the ranks of any of the professions or pursuits from which four may have been already taken.

II. There shall be a permanent Secretary; and at the meeting on the first Wednesday in January two gentlemen shall be annually appointed, who, with the Secretary, shall constitute a Standing Committee of the Club. The Secre-

tary shall keep such records and papers appertaining to the Club as it may be necessary or proper to preserve; he shall arrange the meetings for the season in continuous alphabetical order, and send a list of the same to each member, on or before the fifteenth day of October in each year.

III. The Club will meet every Wednesday evening, from the first Wednesday in November in each year, to the second Wednesday in May, inclusive.

IV. Notice of each meeting shall be given to every member, by the person receiving, on the same or preceding day; and it shall be understood that, if there is no notification, there is no Club. Any member not wishing to receive on his day may exchange with another, whose turn he shall take; or exchanges may be arranged by the Secretary, when necessary. Newly elected members are not expected to receive the Club till their names are down, and an evening is assigned them in the alphabetical list of meetings and members provided for in a preceding rule.

V. The person at whose house the Club meets shall be expected to be ready to receive at half-past eight o'clock; and the supper, which shall be simple and without meats, may be served at any time after half-past nine, and is always to be served by ten o'clock.

VI. It shall be the privilege of every member to bring with him to the Club any stranger of distinction, or any friend from abroad, who may be in the city. It shall be the privilege of the member receiving to invite any such stranger or friend, and also to ask two or three friends, residents in the city, to meet the Club at his house, if circumstances make it desirable for him to extend such invitations.

VII. When a vacancy exists in the number specially assigned to any section of the Club, the nomination for such vacancy shall be made by the members of the section in which it exists; or if this privilege be not claimed or exercised by them, the nomination shall be made by a com-

mittee, appointed for the purpose, which committee shall consist of the Standing Committee, and the addition of one from each of the five sections of the Club; and the candidate so nominated, on the ballot "yea" or "nay" being taken, shall be declared elected, provided there are not more than two "nays" cast.

The foregoing, adopted in 1872, are the rules of the Club at the present time, and no change has been made in them, save, that in interpreting the seventh rule, general agreement and usage have assigned the limitation of one year as the period within which the members of any section of the Club may claim or exercise the exclusive privilege of nominating a candidate to fill a vacancy existing in it: if no nomination has been made within that period, the right to nominate reverts to the Club, as provided; if a nomination has been made by the section and has failed to secure confirmation, it has been understood that the right or privilege of nomination still abides in the section for another season, i.e., till the ensuing winter.

The Club has never taken any special notice of the death of any of its members, except in the case of the late Hon. JOHN DAVIS, LL.D., A.A.S., S.H.S.

"JUDGE DAVIS was born at Plymouth, in Massachusetts, the 25th of January, 1761. He was the youngest member of the Convention for adopting the Constitution of the United States, and survived all his colleagues in that body. Being appointed by Washington, in 1796, District-Attorney of the United States for Massachusetts, he removed to Boston; and in 1801 he was appointed Judge of the United States District Court there. He was for many years Treas-

urer of Harvard University, and President of the Historical Society. When, not long before his death, he proposed to quit the Club on account of his age and weakness, he was requested to be still an honorary member, and join us whenever his health and the weather would permit. He died on Thursday, Jan. 14, 1847, wanting but eleven days to complete his eighty-sixth year."

On the occasion of his death, as he had been a member of the Club for half a century and an object of affectionate and reverent regard, the following communication, prepared by Hon. FRANCIS C. GRAY, and signed by every member of the Club, was made to his family. This paper was printed in the pamphlet, "Rules of the Wednesday Evening Club, as reported by a Committee, Feb. 25, 1857," and also, in the "Sketch of the Wednesday Evening Club," &c., prepared by the Secretary, and printed in 1873. It is reprinted here, that it may be more surely preserved, and go down in connection with the account of our Centennial Commemoration, as one of the most interesting documents in the annals of the Club: —

"*To the Family of Judge Davis:*

"The Members of the Wednesday Evening Club, in which Judge DAVIS was the familiar companion of three generations, — having joined it in the last century, while some of the venerable men by whom it was founded during the war of the Revolution were still living, and continuing to attend its meetings till a late period, — ask leave to express their sympathy with his family.

"Entertaining, with this whole community, the highest respect for his character as a citizen, as a judge, and in

the various other public relations which he sustained, as well as for his sincere and unbigoted study, from early youth to extreme age, of all truth in nature, history, and morals, we have had the peculiar happiness to know and therefore to love him as our venerable associate; and to witness in their most attractive forms the gentler virtues which shed so much beauty on his life, and which rendered him inexpressibly dear to all who knew him intimately, and most so to those who knew him best.

"We recall with grateful satisfaction the pleasure he was willing to receive, as well as to impart, in our hours of social intercourse, and the lively interest he always took in the pursuits and in the feelings of men so much younger than himself.

"We number it with our privileges, that he admitted us to a place in his friendship. We were gladdened by the invariable kindness of his greeting, and instructed by his meek and unobtrusive wisdom; and were certain, when we needed it, of the lenity of his judgments. Among our choicest recollections will be the image of one who, with a quick apprehension and sound judgment, with the appropriate learning of his profession, with extensive and accurate knowledge in several of the natural sciences, in history, and in literature, and with a refined and simple taste, united unwavering integrity, freshness of heart, and a blameless life.

"Such a life, inspired and made fruitful of good deeds by a pure Christian faith, and crowned by a late and placid death, affords no subject for lamentation, but will always be held by us in grateful and affectionate remembrance."

LIST OF MEMBERS.

In 1857, the Committee prepared as full a list of the members as could then be made. The researches of our associate, Mr. W. W. Greenough, have helped to correct and enlarge the following list of the members of the Club, for the first hundred years of its organization, and it is probably very nearly complete. There possibly may have been members between 1778 and 1787 and between 1813 and 1820, of whom no record exists. The memoranda kept by Rev. Dr. John Eliot afford a full list of members between the years 1786 and 1813, for the use of which we are indebted to his son, John F. Eliot, Esq. Five new names were thus obtained. The dates of admission and resignation are mostly exact, though in a very few instances the date of resignation is put down as an approximate calculation, and is unquestionably very nearly correct. The date and place of graduation at College is added where known.

The * indicates those who were members of the Club when they died; the † those who resigned or withdrew. "Honorary Members" designates those who, at the request of the Club, permit their names to remain on the list, but, on account of long membership and the infirmities of age, they are exempt from all duties, while entitled to all privileges, of the Club.

CLERGYMEN.

Joined.	Withdrew or died.		
1777	1813	*John Eliot	H.C. 1772
1777	1825	†John Bradford	H.C. 1774
1777	1838	†William Greenough	Y.C. 1774
1778	1792	†Oliver Everett	H.C. 1779
1798	1802	*John Clarke	H.C. 1774
1779	1779	†John Prince	H.C. 1776
1788	1804	†James Freeman	H.C. 1777
1796	1810	†John T. Kirkland	H.C. 1789
1800	1811	*William Emerson	H.C. 1789
1800	1802	†John S. Popkin	H.C. 1792
1813	1814	*John L. Abbott	H.C. 1805
1806	1812	*Joseph S. Buckminster	H.C. 1800
1811	1818	†Horace Holley	Y.C. 1803
1812	1818	*Samuel C. Thacher	H.C. 1804
1816	1836	†Nathaniel L. Frothingham	H.C. 1811
1818	1852	*Francis Parkman	H.C. 1807
1819	1822	†John G. Palfrey	H.C. 1815
1822	1835	†Francis W. P. Greenwood	H.C. 1814
1820	1836	†John Pierpont	Y.C. 1804
1827	1854	*Alexander Young	H.C. 1820
1835	1838	†Jona. M. Wainwright	H.C. 1812
1836		Samuel K. Lothrop	H.C. 1825
1846	1856	*Ephraim Peabody	Bowd. 1827
1854	1862	*Charles Mason	H.C. 1832
1857		Chandler Robbins	H.C. 1829
1856	1858	†Alexander H. Vinton	Y.C. 1828
1857	1862	†Orville Dewey	Wms. 1814
1859	1875	†George W. Blagden	Y.C. 1823
1872		Henry W. Foote	H.C. 1858

LAWYERS.

1777	1819	†Israel Keith	H.C. 1771
1777	1825	*Thomas Dawes	H.C. 1777
1777	1802	*George R. Minot	H.C. 1778
1786	1808	*Fisher Ames	H.C. 1774
1790	1805	†Rufus G. Amory	H.C. 1778

Joined.	Withdrew or died.		
1791	1809	†JOHN QUINCY ADAMS	H.C. 1787
1797	1826	†JOSIAH QUINCY	H.C. 1790
1798	1847	*JOHN DAVIS	H.C. 1781
1805	1810	*EDWARD GRAY	H.C. 1782
1807	1809	†DUDLEY A. TYNG	H.C. 1781
1810	1825	†WILLIAM PRESCOTT	H.C. 1783
	1827	*DANIEL DAVIS	
1827	1863	†JAMES SAVAGE	H.C. 1803
1827	1831	†BENJAMIN GUILD	H.C. 1804
1829	1864	*CHARLES P. CURTIS	H.C. 1811
1830	1856	*FRANCIS C. GRAY	H.C. 1809
1836		ROBERT C. WINTHROP	H.C. 1828
1836	1841	†WILLIAM H. GARDINER	H.C. 1816
1836	1844	†BENJAMIN R. CURTIS	H.C. 1829
1837	1876	†JOSIAH QUINCY, Jr.	H.C. 1821
1837	1877	*FRANCIS B. CROWNINSHIELD . .	H.C. 1829
1845		PELEG W. CHANDLER	Bowd. 1834
1854		GEORGE T. BIGELOW	H.C. 1829
1856	1876	*THOMAS ASPINWALL	H.C. 1804
1864		DWIGHT FOSTER	Y.C. 1848
1873		GEORGE O. SHATTUCK	H.C. 1851
1874		FRANCIS BARTLETT	H.C. 1857
1876		WILLIAM G. RUSSELL	H.C. 1840

PHYSICIANS.

1777	1831	*THOMAS WELSH	H.C. 1772
1777	1793	*NATHANIEL W. APPLETON . . .	H.C. 1773
1777	1778	*WILLIAM GREENLEAF	H.C. 1777
1778	1815	*JOHN WARREN	H.C. 1771
1778	1820	†AARON DEXTER	H.C. 1776
1804	1809	†JOHN C. HOWARD	H.C. 1790
1794	1822	†WILLIAM SPOONER	H.C. 1778
1815	1829	*JOHN G. COFFIN	H.C. 1811
1825	1863	*GEORGE HAYWARD	H.C. 1809
1827	1835	*J. GREELEY STEVENSON	H.C. 1816
1830	1873	†JACOB BIGELOW (*Honorary Member*) .	H.C. 1806
	1836	†WALTER CHANNING	H.C. 1808

Joined.	Withdrew or died.		
1836	1862	*Benjamin D. Greene	H.C. 1812
1836	1868	*John Homans	H.C. 1812
1837	1855	†Oliver W. Holmes	H.C. 1829
1855	1875	*Charles Mifflin	Univ. Penn. 1828
1872		J. Nelson Borland	Y.C. 1848
1872		Richard M. Hodges	H.C. 1847
1872		Charles D. Homans	H.C. 1846
1875		Thomas B. Curtis	H.C. 1862

MERCHANTS, MANUFACTURERS, AND GENTLEMEN OF LITERATURE AND LEISURE.

1778	1787	†Samuel Emery	H.C. 1774
1778		*William Scollay	
1778		*Elias Willard	
1779	1811	†William Smith	H.C. 1775
1787	1795	†Charles Bulfinch	H.C. 1781
1791	1797	†Charles Vaughan	
1792	1792	†Charles Storer	H.C. 1779
1800		†John Welles	H.C. 1782
1804		†Samuel Cobb	H.C. 1779
1812		†William Wells	H.C. 1796
		†Jonathan Amory	H.C. 1787
		†Jonathan Phillips	
	1842	†Francis J. Oliver	H.C. 1795
1826	1877	Joseph Coolidge (*Honorary Member*)	H.C. 1817
1827	1836	†Henderson Inches	H.C. 1792
	1831	†Samuel A. Eliot	H.C. 1817
	1849	†Henry F. Baker	H.C. 1815
1830	1867	†Thomas B. Curtis	
1830		George B. Emerson	H.C. 1817
1837	1859	*Thomas G. Cary	H.C. 1811
1837	1877	John Amory Lowell (*Honorary Member*)	H.C. 1815
1834	1875	*J. Thomas Stevenson	H.C. 1826
1858		William W. Greenough	H.C. 1837
1860		William Amory	H.C. 1823
1860		Nathaniel Thayer	
1864	1874	*Francis C. Lowell	H.C. 1821

Joined.	Withdrew or died.		
1864	1877	*Joseph Iasigi	
1864	1871	†Turner Sargent	H.C. 1834
1862	1867	*G. Howland Shaw	H.C. 1838
1867		Benjamin S. Rotch	H.C. 1838
1867		Nathaniel Silsbee	H.C. 1824
1867		Robert M. Mason	
1869		Charles Francis Adams . . .	H.C. 1825
1872		T. Jefferson Coolidge . . .	H.C. 1850
1872	1874	†John Heard	
1875		Augustus Lowell	H.C. 1850
1877		Howard Stockton {Royal Saxon Polytechnic} .	Dresden, 1862
1877		George A. Gardner	H.C. 1849
1877		Edward J. Lowell	H.C. 1867
1877		H. Cabot Lodge	H.C. 1871
1877		Alfred P. Rockwell	Y.C. 1855

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